

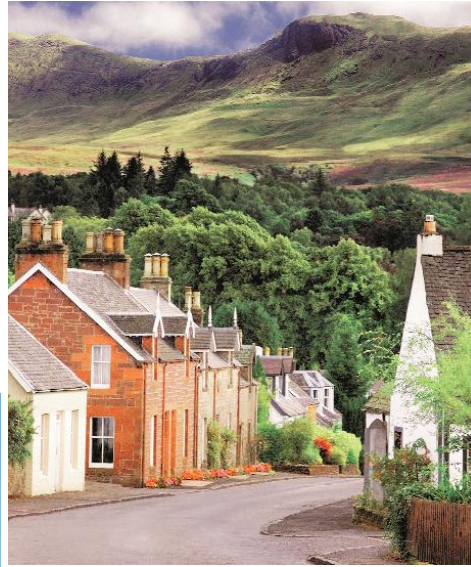


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 50

SUMMER 2021

£1



Celebrating 50 Editions of Killearn Courier

Noticeboard

Some of the items below may depend on Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time.
Please check that the event is going ahead.

1–15 Aug	Killlearn Horticultural Society website accepting online show entries (www.killlearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk).	20 Oct	Killlearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue to be confirmed, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).
28 Aug	Killlearn Horticultural Society Horticultural Outdoor Event at the village hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Large photos of the winning entries will be on display.	21 Oct	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Stephen Desmond on the progress of water through the historic garden in Britain and continental Europe. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
15 Sept	Killlearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue to be confirmed, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).	28 Oct	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by Murray Cook on his recent book, <i>The Anvil of Scotland, Stirling's place in Scottish History</i> . Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2.
16 Sept	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Lynne Gibson on the colour red in painting. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk	6 Nov	Strathendrick Stitchers Corners with a Christmas theme. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. Bring lunch plus own crockery and cutlery to comply with Covid guidance. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Susan Rhind (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).
21 Sept	Strathendrick Stitchers Inaugural meeting and workshop corners. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. Bring lunch plus own crockery and cutlery to comply with Covid guidance. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Susan Rhind (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).	14 Nov	Killlearn Kirk Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45am, followed by a service in the church.
23 Sept	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by Alan McBride, ranger at Mugdock Park, 'The Elephant, the Marquis and the Castle'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £7. www.drymen-history.org.uk	17 Nov	Killlearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue to be confirmed, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).
27 Sept	Monday Club AGM provisional date. Contact Anne O'Neill (aoneillis@aol.com) for confirmation. Killlearn Kirk collection of dried and tinned food for distribution to Stirling Foodbank after the Harvest Thanksgiving service begins. Kirk Halls or other venue to be confirmed.	18 Nov	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Tony Faber on artists in the west of America in the 19th century. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
3 Oct	Killlearn Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30am.	25 Nov	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by James Kennedy, Chairman of Loch Ard Heritage Group, 'The navvies at Loch Chon'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2.
Mid Oct	Killlearn Community Futures Annual General Meeting. date to be confirmed. Contact Graeme Fraser (550905; convenor@kfc.co.uk).		
19 Oct	Strathendrick Stitchers Show and Tell plus workshop corners. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. Bring lunch plus own crockery and cutlery to comply with Covid guidance. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Susan Rhind (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).		

The following have suspended activities.

Contacts for details:

Strathendrick Film Society

mikebath42@gmail.com

Kirk Guild

Members will be notified when meetings restart

Strathendrick Singers

secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk

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

Killearn Village Hall Classes and Clubs

The following are classes and activities we are hoping will be available in the Village Hall – please see contact details below for more information.

Yoga class Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9.30am–10.30am. Suitable for all. Contact Sarah Fleming (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).

Monday Club Monday afternoons, Main Hall and Garden Room.

Stillness Moves–Meditation and Mindful Movement Mondays, 6.45pm–8pm, Main Hall. Best for those with some meditation and yoga experience. Contact Adelaide (07809 469572; ashalhope@stillnessmoves.com).

Adult Ballet Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; julie@danceforparkinsons.org).

Yoga class Tuesdays, 10.30am and Thursdays, 7pm, Garden Room. Contact Craig Buchanan (craig@insideyoga.net).

Tai Chi for Health Tuesdays, 10.45am–11.45am, Garden Room. Contact Sukyee (sukyee.tai@gmail.com).

Linda Turner School of Dancing Thursdays, 2pm–3pm, 4pm–6.30pm, Main Hall. Dance classes for children of all ages. Contact Lynda (01360 770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).

Town Break Friendship Group First Tuesday of each month, 1.30pm–3.30pm, Garden Room. (www.townbreakstirling.org).

DIY circuits Tuesdays, 6.30pm–7.30pm, outside in the car park at the Village Hall. Come and join in. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com) or Nick (07860 700928).

Killearn Bridge Club Tuesdays, 7pm–10.30pm, Garden Room. Contact Arthur Whittaker (07748 636312; www.bridgewebs.com/killearn).

Monaghan Tae Kwon Do Children's classes on Wednesday evening (Main Hall) from 5.30pm–7pm. Contact: David Monaghan (07472 210735; monaghantaekwondo@outlook.com).

Dancercise–adult (50+) fitness class Friday mornings. Low-impact, dance-based exercise and routines for over 50s, ladies and gents. Contact Yasmin (07979 856837; yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk).

Dance for Parkinson's Fridays, 12noon–1pm, Garden Room. Providing creative movement and dance to the Parkinson's and mobility disorders community. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; julie@danceforparkinsons.org).

Buchanan Castle Bridge Club Fridays, 2pm–5pm, Garden Room. Contact Lesley Nicholl (07720 978998; leslynic7@icloud.com).

Editorial

On a summer's evening in 2004, four people met in the living room of a house in Station Road with the sole purpose of discussing the feasibility of producing a village magazine free to residents within the Parish of Killearn. The final decision was that we would give it a go. March 2005 was set as the date of the first issue of what was to become the *Killearn Courier*.

We had to come up with a way of paying for the cost of printing, so we recruited our persuasive Advertising Executives to contact all our local business. Most were keen to advertise, and many are still with us. We could not produce the *Courier* without their backing, so it is only right that we should support them in return.

We were determined to have high editorial and production values, and happily an experienced copy editor was an early volunteer. Even more fortuitously, one of the 'gang of four' was adept at laying out the contributions. He is still with us, and has been joined in Editorial and Production by another highly skilled and creative individual. Between them they craft a magazine with consistently high values. Our printer, with us since the start, found a way to get the *Courier* to press even during the worst of Covid.

Obviously we needed to get contributions, so we recruited (again) a few residents tasked with seeking out potential donors, some of whom are still with us, as are the recruits! Most of the resulting *Courier* Group have contributed articles, and there is a thriving Sports Section.

Are you beginning to detect a pattern?

Delivery was the next hurdle, so we approached several residents, and I have to say that each and every one readily agreed; they are all still with us. A Christmas card and box of chocolates is their inadequate reward.

We have had, from time to time, a Cub Reporter in our group. Each issue is better for having their different take on events.

So, here we are, some 16 years and 50 issues later. Inside we have articles from our regular contributors, including a very relevant item from our weatherman, information as to what is happening in the village, as well as several articles of local interest.

Enjoy.

Ian

Our Editor has modestly omitted to mention his own continuing contribution in the shape of good and consistent leadership. Thank you, Ian, from the Courier Group.

Pharmacy Back in Local Hands

Killearn Pharmacy changed ownership in March this year when Alexandra Stuart moved back to Killearn and fulfilled a dream of owning and running a pharmacy in her home village. Alex advocates independent local pharmacies as better serving the local community rather than corporate outlets: ‘they can be flexible to meet local needs and, being staffed by familiar local people, hopefully give comfort to customers.’

Alex was brought up in Killearn, and educated at the High School of Glasgow and Strathclyde University before ultimately managing one of her brother’s chain of pharmacies in Kirkcaldy, Fife, for 10 years. The help and support of her brother (and his business partner) made the transition to owning the pharmacy more streamlined.

Corrys Chemists include Balfron and Killearn as well as branches in Northern Ireland. A decision by the company to concentrate operations in Northern Ireland brought about the availability of both our local chemist shops. Having covered shifts there made the purchase and transition so much easier, and the Corry brothers were particularly happy to see two local people take over these shops.

It was an easy decision for Alex and her partner to move here because Gordy’s business, Loch Lomond Wakeboard, is based locally. ‘I love that as a community we all support local businesses. I’m thrilled to be a part of that and to be able to return that support by



providing essential healthcare to our village, alongside my colleagues in the pharmacy and the health centre, for years to come.’

Pharmacists Gillian Russell and Alex will share the workload alongside their familiar staff, and will maintain their high standards and good reputation.

Look out for the new Killearn Pharmacy delivery van – a free service offering prescription collection from all local surgeries and deliveries to patients in Killearn and surrounding areas.

Other services to look out for include free lateral flow tests, which are now available to collect at the pharmacy, fit-to-fly Covid-19 PCR testing, and upcoming travel/ winter vaccinations.

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And The Winner Is...



Until this year, The Moss – a magnificent Georgian pile on the outskirts of Killearn – was best known as the site of the birthplace of George Buchanan, poet, scholar, advisor to Mary Queen of Scots and tutor to James VI. However, in June this year The Moss, lovingly and tastefully renovated by its new owners Karen and Matt Welstead, won the prestigious title of the BBC’s ‘Scotland’s Home of the Year’.

Although on the same ground, the house George Buchanan was born in over 500 years ago was a timber framed and thatched building. That was rebuilt and in 1812 replaced by a neat Georgian building with a fine porch and a generous amount of classical detail. This was added to by successive owners over the years, including a section designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1906 – but demolished in the late 1960s.

In 2018, Karen and Matt Welstead were looking to move out from Milngavie and viewed The Moss, which was on the market at the time. They loved the property, but taking on a major project as well as running their own business and bringing up a family of three children (plus pets) was perhaps too much of a stretch. However, Karen decided to have one more look and fate intervened: she met the then owner Jamie Parker (of this parish, Chair of Killearn Trust, etc.) whom she knew from her childhood when he worked with her father at J & J Denholm Shipping. Karen decided then that this was the place she wanted to live, and Matt was persuaded.

By September 2018 they had moved in, and Karen, an interior stylist by profession, had drawn up designs for the transformation of this traditional Georgian building into a modern family home with beautiful, bold design, fine finishes and quirky touches, whilst preserving the essential architecture and style of the Grade C listed building. Trusted tradesman moved in almost immediately and Phase I was completed in time for a Hogmanay party. Phase II of this phenomenal undertaking was largely finished by the following summer (importantly, before lockdown).

Karen would often get her professional work photographed to show it and to credit the contractors and craftspeople involved, and so pictures of this, her own

passion project, appeared in *Homes Interior Scotland* magazine. These came to the attention of researchers for ‘Scotland’s Home of the Year’ and Karen agreed to The Moss being put forward for the series.

The Moss was chosen as one of the ‘final three’ along with a magnificent ‘Garden House’ new build and a quirky suburban ‘Funhouse’. At a ceremony in the House of An Art Lover, The Moss was announced as the 2021 winner, and Karen collected her award.

And so, from meeting in Goldman Sachs in London, Karen and Matt moved to Glasgow and have now created a wonderful family home in Killearn.

Set in 26 acres of land, their delightful Georgian house has a large open kitchen looking out of French



windows onto the garden, a games room, a stunning dining room and drawing room and sweeping stairs leading up to the six bedrooms and bathrooms. It might not only be Scotland’s home of **this** year... but for several years to come!

Scotland’s Home of the Year series is currently available to view on BBC i-Player.



Images courtesy of Paul Tyagi ©

NH

155th Annual Show 2021

With Covid-19 restrictions still lingering, the Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society (KCHS) committee have come up with a special way to commemorate what would have been the 155th Annual Show.

By the time you read this, entries for the Online Show will have closed for judging. Winners will be revealed on Show Day, 28 August.

Heather Wright, KCHS Chair, said, 'Sadly, the restrictions meant we were unable to hold a physical Show, but we are planning an outdoor event that meets the Covid-19 guidance and also guarantees that we can socialise safely.

And what's that outdoor event? The Hoe! This celebration of the growing world will take place on Show Day, 28 August, 1p– 4pm in the Village Hall and Killearn Kirk car parks.

Gazebos have been secured! There will be a variety of displays under canvas, including large photos of all the winning entries. A variety of organisations and societies will be showcased, and there will be displays for viewing in the large tent.

The committee is also hoping that entries for their scarecrow competition will be making an appearance on the day.

Keep up to date at killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk.

News in brief

In the spring 2021 edition, we printed the contact email address for Breathing Space incorrectly. It should be breathingspace4pets@gmail.com.

Why is it taking so long to repair Branshogle Bridge on the Fintry Road? Stirling Council undertook an ecological survey to determine what wildlife or plant life were present near the bridge, and that was completed in June. Survey work to measure ground levels is now underway to allow completion of detailed assessment of the damage to the bridge and onward design for repair.

More than 6,000 trees have been planted around the Stirling area this year. Native species suiting a wide range of ground conditions have been included, such as goat willow and alder for wetter areas. Trees like rowan and crab apple have also been planted in order to provide food for wildlife, while blackthorn and hawthorn have been planted into hedges. The hard work has been done by individuals and community organisations alongside the Council.



Arise, Strathendrick Stitches!



The group formerly known as the Strathendrick Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild has risen like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes, after the national Guild's decision to no longer support its branches around the country was made public in spring 2021.

Shock and fury were exhibited, understandably, but there was no doubt that we in Strathendrick would establish ourselves as an independent stitching group, once we were freed from red tape, and with the constitutional 't's' crossed and banking 'i's' dotted.

On the surface, not much will be different. We still meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Kirk Hall, but the hours are slightly shorter this session, 10am–2pm.

We are Covid-compliant, naturally, so it's BYOB (no, no, not bottle...although, if you weren't driving...), but Bring Your Own Banquet: lunch, drink, cutlery and crockery. Hopefully, this aspect won't last too long, but we are happy to abide by the Hall rules in the meantime.

Our programme is also slightly different this session. We will be hosting 'corners', where members will guide you through something different – a technique, fun materials, new stitches. Rumour has it that there may be wyverns involved. Our store cupboard is a veritable Aladdin's cave of curious fibres, fabric paints and materials just waiting to be experimented with.

We will have short talks by members on particular textile topics close to their hearts.

Show and Tell will feature – we haven't met in more than a year, and goodness, some bodies have been very, very creative indeed!



Competitions, Christmas lunch and the SST Gathering

in April. There is the possibility of an outside speaker and even a tutor-led workshop in the New Year.

Strathendrick Stitches will provide a friendly and enthusiastic place where all are welcome and valued. We look forward to members – old and new – participating in our new venture and taking forward the 'world of stitch, embroidery and textile'. Any questions? Contact Susan at strathendrickstitches@gmail.com. NB

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Strathendrickfabricfun@gmail.com**

Cubs and Scouts Take to the Outdoors

23rd Killearn Cubs and Scouts have had an exciting few months, as since Easter we've been able to resume face-to-face activities.

For the Cubs (aged 8 to 10½), a shortage of leaders meant some sessions with external providers, with great evenings at Endura Lifecycle Trust and Green Aspirations Scotland. All the Cubs showed remarkable persistence honing fire-lighting skills without matches and great mountain-biking skills. We also made use of the fabulous local area, with an evening at the lambing shed, a burn scramble through Killearn glen and a cycle to Strathblane for chips! The highlight of the term was the opportunity to try some water activities on Loch Venachar, coached by the local Scouts water-sports team. Over two

evenings they tried individual kayaks, Canadian canoes and bell boating, as well as open-water swimming, fuelled by burgers and 's'mores' round the campfire.

We're very grateful to the local community for supporting

our endeavours and also to the parent helpers. However, we desperately need more leaders to come on board and get involved with this section. The kids are all really keen and we also have a big waiting list, so it would be really sad if the section couldn't continue.

Due to some of the leaders' work commitments which are likely to take them away from home as Covid-19 restrictions ease, Scouts are also on the lookout for more volunteers to make a regular commitment in what is a truly rewarding role. Scouts also has spaces for older kids (both boys and girls up to 14½).

This term, Scouts enjoyed a fantastic day at Dounans



Outdoor Centre canoeing and jumping down a river. Everyone got very wet, including the leaders! Scouts have also cycled from Killearn to Aberfoyle via the forestry route above Drymen and were rewarded with a fish supper. They honed their map-reading skills, whittled wands and had a great end-of-term party with burgers and sausages to fuel a water fight – with the leaders trying to avoid being the target!

Anyone interested in helping with the group, please email killearnscouts@hotmail.com for more info.

Until our next update, Dib-Dib!

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andrewtreardon@icloud.com

Fresh from Arbroath

Bear Park Bonanza

The Bear Park at Loch Lomond no longer exists. When it opened in the '70s, it was an ideal place to take children during school holidays or to entertain them on birthday weekends. On the occasion which I most clearly remember, I drove the car and a friend sat in the front passenger seat with her two-year-old daughter on her knee. In the back of the car were three very noisy little boys – her son and my two sons, aged between four and six.

At first the boys were quiet, gazing out of the window and chewing vast quantities of sweets. From time to time they made observations of a scientific nature such as: 'Oh look at that one. It's doing a wee!' Suddenly one of the boys in the back screeched, 'Wow, look! This big one's chasing the car!'

'No, it's not,' I said, in what I hoped was a reassuring tone. 'It's just running around, enjoying the sunshine.' 'Well,' said the boy, 'I don't like the look on its face.'

We had reached a useful viewing point, so I decided to pull into a layby and hopefully let the galloping bear overtake. However, instead of overtaking, the bear stopped and scrambled onto the boot of the car. One of the boys screamed, 'It's going to try and get into the car!' 'Don't be silly,' I said, 'It can't do that.' The intruder was now aiming for the roof. There was a metallic creaking as it settled there. A car which seemed to be packed with

children drew up beside us. The children were wide-eyed and looked horrified. One of them was mouthing, 'You've got a bear on your roof.'

'We know we have,' shouted one of the boys in the back. 'It's OK. Mum's just going to get rid of it!'

Was I going to get rid of it? If so, how?

At this point more creaking ensued. The bear crawled along the roof and slid down the windscreen onto the bonnet. It turned to face into the car. Its black head was truly enormous. Its eyes appeared to be staring at us all through the windscreen. The baby began to scream. The boys were silent. The bear began to chew on one of the windscreen wipers.

On the other side of the track we saw an official 'Bear Park' Land Rover arrive and park.

'I think they are going to shoot it,' said one of the boys. Another said, 'They can't do that. They might shoot Mum.'

It was at that moment that I remembered the touching remark from my son about getting rid of the bear. I started the engine and we moved off. The bear had been so busy eating the windscreen wiper that the movement took him by surprise. He rolled over and fell onto the track. A great cheer erupted from the back of the car. I had defeated the bear! I was a heroine!

CB

WWW.

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Unusually, but unsurprisingly, the Killearn Club has been doing things differently this year and many of our members have continued playing online over the summer when we normally take a break. Hopefully we will get back to physical club nights in the autumn. Talking of which, our bridge classes have continued online and we hope to restart them around a real table in the autumn. To join us for a Tuesday club night, please go to our website and just sign in. Alternatively, email us about this or the classes.

This article continues the one in the spring issue on defending and signalling where we covered ‘attitude’. This time we will look at ‘count’ and ‘discard’. Signalling can be a double-edged sword as it also gives information to Declarer, so use it with care. A balanced view, perhaps, is to say that a signal should ‘tell partner what they need to know’, and only signal when it will do this. Obviously, you need to be on the same wavelength as your partner, so the meaning of any signal has to be agreed between the two of you. It will also have to be declared to the opposition should they ask.

Count is simply what it says. Counting the cards in each suit as they are played so that you know how many are left and also looking to see whether your partner plays a higher or lower card than the previous time. The standard method is ‘petering’ with an even number of cards in the suit played (i.e., playing a higher card and then a lower one, and playing upwards with an odd number of cards in a suit). A classic example is a ‘high-low’ with a doubleton to indicate that you can trump a third round of that suit.

Discards are what you play when you can’t follow the suit played (or win with a trump), in order to indicate the suit that you would like partner to lead

when they get the chance. Here, I’d like to introduce you to three precise discard systems: McKenney, Dodds, and Revolving. In my view these are better than a ‘natural’ system that indicates desire for a suit with a card from that suit. Especially in a No Trump contract where having a long suit is valuable, discarding a potential winning card is a waste.

To illustrate McKenney discards, consider the situation where Hearts are being played. Here, a low Diamond requests Clubs as does a low Spade (the lower of the other two suits). Conversely a high card requests the higher of the other two suits (i.e., a high Club asks for Spades and a high Spade asks for Diamonds).

Dodds uses odd and even cards: an even card encourages the suit discarded; an odd card indicates a liking for the other suit of the same colour. Personally, I find this complicated and also somewhat restrictive in not just needing a card of the right suit, but also the necessary odd or even card (rather than just a low or high card). All of this can be hard to remember especially in the throes of ‘battle’.

Revolving, I think, is easy to remember and apply. It also has the advantage of being independent of the suit on which the discard is being made, unlike Dodds. Think of all the suits, in normal bid order, lying in a circle, so Clubs are ‘above’ Spades as well as ‘below’ Diamonds. A high card discarded indicates the suit above is desired; a low card indicates the suit below. If the suit immediately above is obviously wrong (maybe already played out or trumps) then the next suit above or below is intended. To take a simple example of discarding when defending against 3NT:

Dealer: East		Game All
South	West	North
1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	

<p>North (dummy)</p> <p>♠ J6 ♥ J6 ♦ A K Q 3 ♣ K J 10 9 2</p>

<p>East</p> <p>♠ 9 7 5 3 ♥ A K Q 10 ♦ 10 8 6 4 ♣ 8</p>

You’re sitting East. West holds five Clubs, and so leads the ♣5, the 2 is played from Dummy, you follow with the ♣8 and South wins with the ♣Q. South next leads the ♣4, which tells West that your ♣8 must have been a singleton. So with nothing to gain by holding back, West wins with the Ace. What do you discard to show your interest in receiving a Heart? See page 35 to find out.

Z

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Out and About with Dogs

Winter has passed and the long days, warmth and lush green of summer are begging us to spend time outside – alone, with friends and family and, of course, with our dogs. Here are some thoughts on how to enjoy our wonderful environment safely and harmoniously.

Tips for dog owners

It really can get too hot, especially for small dogs that are closer to the warm ground and for short-nosed breeds with their airway problems.

Always take a lead with you and a ‘doggie bag’ containing treats, water, poo bags, dog whistle, first-aid kit, and mobile phone for emergencies.

Dogs should never chase any animals or disrupt nesting. Use a long lead and harness if your dog has a high prey drive, or simply avoid the area.

Pick your dog’s poo up, always, anywhere! If you run out of bags: bury it. Take the filled bags with you or pick them up on your way home.

Do not let your dog run too far ahead, and have your dog on lead when on a pavement or a path shared with cyclists and horses.

This is important when you see an approaching person or dog (especially if on-lead) and especially so whenever you cannot see what lies ahead.

Give others space when passing, or have your dog sit and focus on you while letting others pass.

Ask before letting dogs meet and be careful about ‘nose-to-nose meetings’ on lead. They often create misunderstandings. Dogs need to exchange a lot of information before meeting safely, and no dog is OK with all others.

However, misjudgements will happen! If dog owners meet suddenly, say hello, praise all dogs (which lifts the mood and calms) and walk on, cueing your dogs to come with you. Do not shout or get your hands involved. It only creates confusion and conflict.

If your dog is worried or unsure, choose a walk with good visibility and enough space to prevent ‘close encounters’ by avoiding narrow paths and areas with dense vegetation.



Tips for walkers, runners, cyclists, motorists

Please slow down for others on shared paths, give room and pass so that you could stop if necessary.

Not doing so is an offence, can create anxiety and reactivity in dogs, and can cause serious accidents.

Please announce your presence (ring your bell, say ‘excuse me’ or ‘hello’)

if you have not been noticed, and give space!

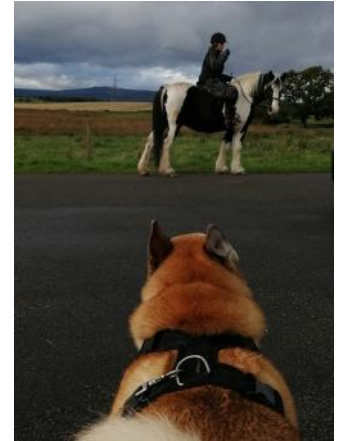
If you bump into dog owners in the middle of nowhere, please allow them time and space to get their dogs back and on-lead before you mountain bike, run or walk past.

A light-hearted, friendly ‘hello’ to any approaching person or dog is not just polite, it also helps dogs gain positive information and dissolves any tension, helping everyone. Dogs are not mindless machines. Think of them rather as a young child with four fast legs, very good noses and the same emotions as us.

Dogs are often simply surprised by suddenly appearing strangers and relieved about friendly encounters.

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PAT WORKS ALL YEAR ROUND 

The Long Read: What's happening to our weather?

I was asked if our local weather statistics show a warming trend to our climate. My response was that between 2004–11, my weather centre reported a mean annual temperature rise of 1.2°C (from 9.2°C to 10.4°C), but fell back closer to the 9.5°C mean from 2011–20.

The problem with these statements is that one needs to examine records over a much longer period of time and ideally for more than one location. What we do know is that the 10 hottest years since records began in 1850 have all occurred since 1998, and all of the 20 warmest years globally have occurred since 1980.

Professor Tim Osborne, Director of Research at the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit (CRU), documents that global temperature has risen by 1.07°C from 1850 to 2018, but that land temperature has warmed by 1.6°C on average. The main contributor is human influence on the climate from greenhouse gas emissions. In the 1980s around 7 billion tons of CO₂ were released annually but this is thought to have increased to 8 billion tons between 2000 and 2005. It is likely to rise further if action is not taken.

The World Meteorological Organisation reports that the global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and the deep ocean below 2,000 metres has warmed since 1992. This combination will inevitably lead to a rise in sea levels – warmer water takes up more volume – with implications for coastal communities.

Weather extremes across the world are becoming more frequent, costing lives, loss of homes and damage to fragile economies. In 2020, India, Pakistan and parts of Europe had prolonged heatwaves. Temperatures reached 38°C in Verkhoyask, a small town inside the Arctic Circle. Drought in East Africa saw 15 million people needing urgent aid. Australia and the western United States had record-breaking wildfires that saw loss of lives, property and livestock. Bangladesh had one-third of its land mass under water due to flooding, with substantial loss of life and property.

The
10
HOTTEST
YEARS

since 1850 have
all occurred
since
1998

Global
temperature

has risen
by
1.07°C
from
1850
to
2018

LOCALLY
the year
2020
was the
THIRD
WARMEST
since
1884

Locally, the year 2020 was the third warmest since 1884, the sixth wettest since 1862, the eighth sunniest since 1919, and February was the wettest month since records began in 1850, with flooding having an impact on Glasgow courtesy of storm Francis.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecast that a warming world would lead to the UK receiving about 10 per cent more rainfall on average by 2100. The UK is experiencing flooding at almost any time of the year now.

The State of the Climate 2019, prepared by the Met Office, states that 'the UK's climate is becoming wetter. Highest rainfall totals over a five-day period are 4% higher over the last decade compared to 1961–90. Furthermore, the amount of rain from very wet days has increased by 17% over the same time periods and that regionally these changes are largest for Scotland.'

TACKLING GLOBAL WARMING AROUND THE WORLD

The effects of global warming will be a feature when the climate change conference takes place in Glasgow in early November. Known as COP26 the aim is to accelerate action towards the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In addition to negotiations, countries and international organisations have the opportunity to highlight diverse climate change issues and report on how they are tackling them.

This major conference will attract worldwide press coverage and Scotland as the venue host will be asked how it is attaining its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2045.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The Climate Change Committee which advises the UK government have produced a scenario of actions that we can take to ensure that we reduce our carbon footprint. Broadly, they list suggestions on how we might change the way we travel, choices in heating

and lighting our homes, and choices in what we buy and what we eat (www.theccc.org.uk/the-need-to-act/what-can-we-all-do/). Some are obvious – using public transport, insulating homes and using LED light bulbs, using peat-free compost in the garden and consciously trying to ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’ waste of all sorts. Other ideas are more controversial: minimising long-haul flights, eating less meat and dairy, and cooperatively using items like power tools. Some suggestions are things your parents or grandparents might have heard: buy the best you can afford and look after it. Many of these changes will save money as well as emissions.

Look for changes you can make in your workplace or school, and support your colleagues to make changes too. Talk about your experiences and help to raise awareness of the need to act.

Scotland will not achieve its 2045 emissions target without substantial government intervention. Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero (2020) is an update to the Scottish Government’s 2018–32 Climate Change Plan. It is detailed, comprehensive and ambitious. Top of the list is to secure a green recovery from Covid-19

Climate is an ill-tempered beast, and we are poking it with sticks. ♪♪

that includes training and reskilling for future green jobs. It then goes on from building on current successes by aiming to recycle up to 70 per cent of all waste by 2025 and expanding Scotland’s forest cover planted annually to 18,000 hectares, to the high-tech ideas of developing the role of hydrogen in our energy supply and revitalising carbon capture schemes (by capturing carbon dioxide directly from power stations, for example).

The Scottish Government recognises that meeting its targets will only be possible as a shared national endeavour. They are supporting this by establishing a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. Interested readers can find out more about this by looking at www.climateassembly.scot.

The eyes of the world will be on Glasgow and Scotland in November so we must all be prepared to play our part. We are going to be part of a worldwide group of nations who must redesign our global community and will need to be bold. In the words of the late Professor Wallace S. Broecker of Columbia University, ‘Climate is an ill-tempered beast, and we are poking it with sticks.’

TOM RENFREW

(References available upon request.)

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Killearn Heritage Trail Open For Business!

After three years' work (extended due to the pandemic) the Killearn Heritage Trail is up and running – the route is complete, the boards are installed and the website is attracting plenty of traffic. Most importantly, the Trail is being greatly enjoyed and appreciated by residents and visitors alike, bringing Killearn's history to life!

The eight interpretation boards were unveiled by pupils from Killearn Primary School – promenading around the Trail on 20 May – with generous coverage of the event on social media and in the local press.



The primary school grasped the opportunity presented by the Trail to learn more about the history of our village. Each class adopted a board and used the themes to do project work through the summer term. With wonderful displays of drawings, photographs, writing and craftwork, the pupils really engaged with their heritage.

The project has been hugely encouraged by the goodwill, enthusiasm and support received from people throughout the village. The *Courier* co-funded the project, along with the Heritage Lottery Fund; local people contributed their recollections, knowledge and archive photos to inform the content; 50 hardy souls helped marshal the boards for hours through the May opening weekend in sun and rain (thank you all!), and people have been absorbed and fascinated by the facts, figures and stories shared.

The ambition is for the Trail to be an attraction in the village for years to come, for it to draw visitors to appreciate our wonderful built and natural environment, and to bring trade to the village's shops and hostellers.

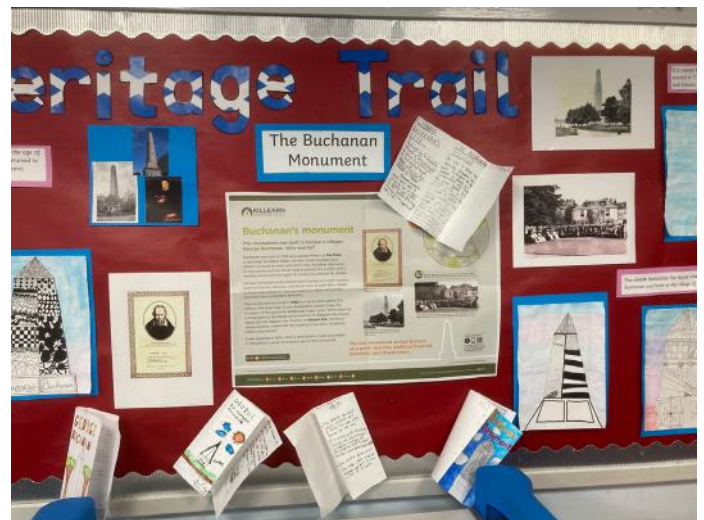


The website (www.killearnheritage.org.uk/) has a whole wealth of material showing the Trail, plus much more detail about the historical features of the area, maps showing the development of the village over the centuries, a gallery of over 150 archive photographs, and links and references to other sources of information. The website also includes suggested paths for walking running or cycling around the district. Additional content will be added as it comes to light from users and contributors. The hope is that this fantastic resource will prove to be of interest and value to folk near, far and wide.

So, what's next? Well, over the summer holiday, a children's competition will be held (see our Facebook page for details) and Part II of the Killearn Glen Dig will be underway shortly. The excavation in 2019 only had time to dig two trenches and, tantalisingly, there is an area in the 'Laird's House' that could well prove to be another room in this medieval building. The plan is to explore this area to try and find out more about the age, origins and purpose of the structure.

So, if you go down to the woods today... keep an eye on social media for updates.

The Trail is launched – and further ideas are being hatched for the future. The Trail belongs to the village – thank you for your support – enjoy it. NH



Killearn Primary Under Lockdown

We all know that lockdown was a hard time, but it was even harder for children who had to home learn. Though home learning was quite sad and frustrating, it was also fun because we got to do lots of exciting things that we couldn't otherwise do.

Here in Primary 7 we enjoyed lots of things, but some of our favourites were having daily Google Meets, which made lockdown more sociable than in P6 when we couldn't have them. Most of us also liked having a Chromebook to do our work on, because we found typing fun and easy. During lockdown we were also able to do lots of crafting and art, lots of which were to do with outside. We really enjoyed making crafts out of stones, sticks and other items from nature.

Though not only Primary 7 enjoyed fun activities during lockdown, lots of other classes enjoyed lockdown too. Primary 6 enjoyed lots of science experiments, including making lava lamps, making carbon dioxide balloons and colour coding OZ-bot. Primary 5 enjoyed lots of things to do with nature, including work on flowering and non-flowering plants. Primary 5 also found learning about the cycles of animals was very interesting, and also found work on Robert Burns very fun.

Primary 4/5 liked the Google Meets a lot, they liked laughing, joking and talking very sociably, and it made them feel less lonely.

During lockdown, P1 really enjoyed doing outdoors activities. When we came back to school, they were really keen to keep this going, so we have started developing an outdoor learning space. They have been busy building, measuring and creating things in the space already, and



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have big plans to develop it further. Their ideas include having bird feeders to attract birds, planting fruit, vegetables and flowers, and building a stage. They are gathering things that could be useful, like pipes, wood, paint, decking boards, mirrors and even musical instruments.



Some children seemed to like lockdown and some children didn't. This shows that even though lockdown was bad, our amazing teachers made it 10 times more fun.

TATE HOTCHKISS, PRIMARY 7

In an atmosphere of declining standards in so many areas of life, isn't it refreshing to note that over the 50 issues of the *Killearn Courier*, the standard has consistently gone from high to higher?

Many towns and villages must envy us in having such a super magazine, so full of information and comment, so relevant and yet historic at the same time. It's just brilliant, and, by deduction, so is the committee. There have been a few changes of personnel, which keeps the input fresh and interesting, but the main executive members are still there, still doing a great job.

Alterations to the village since the early *Courier* issues are many and varied. References to the bank and the attached hole in the wall are now sadly out of date, as are mentions of the Spar and the butcher. But these are fairly recent changes. Further back, remember the campaign to save the old school building that

became the leisure centre? It's difficult to imagine how we managed to lose such an amenity. Naturally, the temptation is to blame the Council, and we might even be right. Some things are beyond the power of the community, but the *Courier* did its best to highlight the danger. Then we get the perennial worry about the tennis courts being under threat. Fortunately, they are still there, and hopefully have enough support in the village to keep going. The tennis club is a huge asset.

Change goes on all the time, of course. Old buildings get altered or knocked down, new ones appear and start to blend with the surroundings, so that we don't always remember how things used to be. Even the people tend to get absorbed into time's tapestry, as a quick read through earlier issues of the *Courier* will prove. Then they spring back into the memory, as bright and clear as when they left us.

Upcoming changes are always contentious, combining hope for the future with a reluctance to alter the status quo. Various plans for new outlying housing developments bring mixed reactions, and the temptation

is usually to wait and see what happens, hoping the pretty village we all know won't be materially damaged. One only has to think of the number of cars that will appear at the rate of one and a half per household to see problems ahead.

Incidentally, where have all the cars come from that are now cramming the village hall and church car parks, as well as the main road, at all times of the day? Who are these people?? They can't all be tourists, can they? After nearly half a century in the village, where can I apply for a priority parking permit?

At least the new flats at the Bull will have their own designated parking spots. And isn't this an exciting venture! It will be a real joy to see our poor little hotel being given new life. And the positioning for the new residents couldn't be better. Young and old, they'll be within walking distance of the Co-op. Even better, they will be able to walk on the flat to the hairdresser, the church, the pharmacy, the Village Hall and the pub. For older folk, there is also something deeply attractive about the thought of transporting oneself from a large family home to something much easier to dust. The only problem might be deciding which domestic junk to jettison. How does one chuck out cherished china? How could a few walls accommodate one's paintings, mostly by local artists? And then there're the books...

JOYCE BEGG





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Demise of a Well-known Local Landmark



Killearn resident Colin McGowan captured the final moments of the Black Bull as it was reduced to a pile of rubble.



What a dramatic change to the Killearn skyline on a summer's evening.



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Killlearn Community Council Report

The Community Council has continued to liaise between Stirling Council and residents particularly concerning the latest information regarding the pandemic.

Our focus of late, however, has concerned roads. First, we have reinforced concerns regarding a prompt repair of the Branshogle Bridge on the B818 to Fintry, and second, we have now entered debate and discussion regarding road safety measures in the village, in particular the trial of a 20mph speed limit. Consultation will follow, and any ideas to implement a 20mph speed limit to manage expectations are welcome.

Otherwise, monitoring of the large construction projects at the former hotel and hospital continues, with both expected to commence in early summer.

Regarding Stirling Rural Housing Association proposals for Lampson Road, application has been made, but requires re-notification and also has to be advertised. Further bat surveys have been undertaken and the outcome added to the application.

At the AGM held in June, officers re-appointed were Jim Ptolomey, chair; Fiona Rennie, secretary; Elizabeth Jones, treasurer.

JIM PTOLOMEY

KCFC Report

The highlight of our current activity must be the opening of the Heritage Trail (see page 14). The opening weekend was very well attended with large numbers of groups taking the opportunity to walk the Trail. It was particularly satisfying that many families new to the village were interested in our history and the positive feedback was much appreciated. The huge amount of time and effort behind this project by Nick Hawkins and his team deserves thanks from all in Killlearn.

After very careful consideration we have regrettably had to take the decision to once again cancel this year's fireworks display. The administrative process requires us to apply for a licence from Stirling Council which we would have had to submit imminently. The current Covid regulations constrain the numbers attending such events and demand a high degree of crowd control, which we do not have the practical ability to implement. The hope is that we will be able to resume holding this popular event next year.

We are considering what alternative activities might possibly be organised to bring a little brightness to village life during November. We hope to have an appropriate announcement to make on this subject later in the year.

The All Killlearn Archive – as always – has huge volumes of documentation which need reviewing and cataloguing which is explained in more detail in the review (see page 30) by Peter Smith, the group's convenor. If you can help in any way, your assistance will be much appreciated.

GRAEME FRASER

Killlearn Advent Windows Trail 2021

Looking forward to a more 'normal' Christmas this year? So are we – and we're planning to continue the tradition started last year with the Advent Windows Trail that brightened up our village last December.

Just like an Advent calendar, an illuminated window will be revealed each day from 1–24 December.

Would you like to create a window? Do you have a house that is visible from the street? If so and if you would like more information, or to put your name down to take part, then please get in touch with Glenda at killlearn.advent.windows@gmail.com before 3 October.

We will again be raising much needed funds for charity, and also hoping we can organise some workshops for participants to get the creative juices flowing. Meanwhile, just Google 'Advent Windows' for inspiration.

Please do get in touch – our village needs you!



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Killearn Health Centre News

Covid-19

For everyone in the community it has been a very hard year. As a practice we have had to adapt and change how we offer health services. We are constantly reviewing our processes in line with current guidance in an effort to ensure we offer the best healthcare possible. We thank all our patients for their understanding during this period.

As a practice, we ran in-house Covid vaccination clinics for all patients aged 50 years and above. This local approach has proved very successful to date, with over 99 per cent uptake in those aged 80+ – the most at risk group. In our population aged 50+, our uptake was exceptional at over 95 per cent. We do believe that the fact we ran the clinics ourselves was the major factor in this uptake. For those aged under 50 years of age, Forth Valley NHS has also been running clinics here at the surgery.

Killearn Village Hall

As I write, it's midsummer... here's hoping we have a long and sunny summer.

We wanted to thank all of those friends and families who have been coming back to the hall and the café over the past few weeks. It's been lovely to have people back in the hall for yoga, mini-music, ballet, Tai Chi, badminton, dancing and for weddings, too. It makes the hall feel alive again, and we have welcomed all of your support.

As we roll into the summer holidays and beyond, we hope that the hall can be somewhere you think about using to come and meet friends and family. We have lots of open space for family time, to meet friends and hang out.

We've also had more people coming to talk to us

Staff News August 2021

Dr Frank Mayaya returns to us to complete his final year of training. Dr Margaret Carey joins us to start her three-year training programme. Dr Emily McKenzie joins us for four months as part of her Foundation Year training. We extend a warm welcome to all three doctors.

Prescriptions

Your local pharmacy will be able to order repeat prescriptions on your behalf, meaning that your dispensed prescription items will be available for collection at the pharmacy. Please ask your pharmacy for more information.

Out-of-Hours Access

If you require access to medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 contact number has changed to 111.

about family gatherings – smaller events where families can have some food, catch up, celebrate that special anniversary. Maybe you have a special occasion coming up and maybe we could help you? Come and talk to us about options.

Or how about you take a wander round the new Killearn Heritage Trail (www.killearnheritage.org.uk) and then come and sit in The Kitchen Window for some lunch, cake or even a drink?

We're here to help and we're open for business. We are so excited to be working with Sarah and her team at The Kitchen Window... #community #killearn #open

Come and talk to us or email us (killearnvillagehall@gmail.com).

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Regrettably I have to begin by saying the last few months have been very sad, with the loss of several of our most long-standing members, most recently the one who got the club started in the first place with a local run as part of the Balfour 700 in 2003 – Donald Brown. But we have also lost other founder members in Dennis Garnett, Mike Gastall and Mike Menzies. We will greatly miss all they contributed to the club activities.

Whilst the general travel restrictions stayed in place, the club carried on with virtual activities. Members received *Overdrive*, the regular Club newsletter, the monthly *Extra* short editions, and a special anniversary supplement to mark 60 years of the E-type Jaguar, together with video nights covering the history and current production of Lotus sports cars.

Once we were able to travel, some local runs were arranged: fish 'n' chips in Callander, delayed Drive-it-Day run to the Knockderry House Hotel in Cove on the Kilcreggan peninsula, Perthshire tour to the Tormaukin Hotel in Glendevon, and our annual Car-BQ.

By the time you read this, we may have had our planned meet at Killearn Village Hall, so you might have been able to see some of our members' cars close up before we go to the Uplawmoor Hotel in Renfrewshire. After that, we will be hoping to start our winter programme of after-dinner evening talks – if we can meet up again in close proximity.

Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about our plans, then please contact me as club secretary (info001@gmail.com). DOUGASHWORTH

On Wednesday, 30 June 2021, 16 lady members of the Inner Wheel of Strathendrick met for the first time in 18 months at The Winnock Hotel in Drymen. Covid restrictions had closed our activities from March 2020.

Sadly the group have had difficulty in recent years finding new younger members – a problem facing many similar organisations. After much discussion, a decision was finally made to disband the club.

The club was inaugurated by our Allander mother club in 1978, with May Davidson as the first President. It flourished for many happy years.

Through the years, the Inner Wheel had a good working relationship with Strathendrick Rotary Club, especially the joint Bridge nights.

Fundraising events to raise money for many local and national charities was part of the ethos of the club. Often these jumble sales, daffodil teas, coffee mornings and even a charity walk proved to be fun events for both organisers and villagers who supported us so well.

It is always sad when things come to an end, but hopefully the friendships members have made will continue. The occasional outings and dinners are planned on an informal basis.

Thanks to all the local people who have supported our various ventures. Thanks also to the Winnock Hotel in Drymen where we have had our meetings in recent years.

Our present committee with President Jean Anderson will liaise with Inner Wheel District to wind down the club and distribute any remaining funds to members' chosen charities. HELEN WATSON



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The Loch Katrine Water Works



Between 1821 and 1871, male life expectancy in Glasgow fell from 34 to 31 years, but by 1900, it had increased to around 40. A significant factor in this improvement was the introduction of Loch Katrine water to the city.

Historically, Glasgow drew its water from many wells and the polluted waters of the Clyde; cholera and typhoid were rife. The death of the daughter of Sir James Campbell, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, may have been a crucial spur in finally getting some real action on improving the water supply.

A rapidly increasing population gave further impetus to the search for new sources and Loch Katrine, Loch Lubnaig and the Endrick valley were considered. Private companies vied to get involved, but it was decided that the provision of water should be the responsibility of Glasgow Corporation.

John Bateman, a prominent civil engineer, was appointed to give an overview of these options and

Total tendered cost for the first aqueduct was £522,622. 18s. 11.5d.

his report strongly favoured Loch Katrine on account of water quality, high rainfall, future potential and cost.

To provide a second opinion, the Corporation appointed Robert Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel, no less, to provide an independent review. Following their endorsement the scheme was promoted in Parliament, and the Glasgow Corporation Water Works Act 1855 finally received royal assent in July of that year.



Under the guidance of Mr Bateman contract documents were prepared and prices obtained. The total tendered cost for the first aqueduct amounted to £522,622. 18s. 11.5d., and to everyone's delight, this was within the Parliamentary estimates. Construction commenced with a ceremony at the head of Loch Chon in May 1856.

Loch Katrine is nine miles long and is 370ft above sea level. The aqueduct, which is about 8ft by 8ft, carries a flow at a gentle walking pace and discharges into Mugdock Reservoir some 26 miles distant at an elevation of 320ft. Much of the aqueduct has been constructed with a fall of a mere 10 inches per mile.

The aqueduct carries water about 8ft by 8ft at a gentle walking pace.

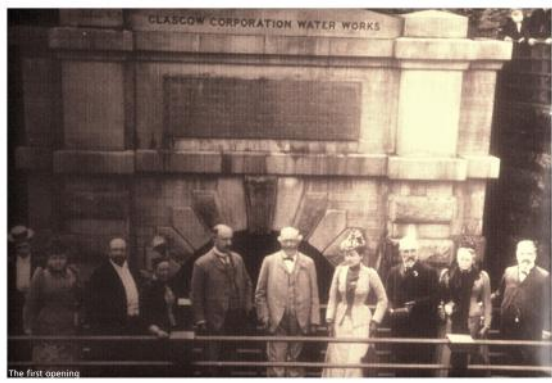
Loch Katrine is nine miles long and is 370ft above sea level. The aqueduct, which is about 8ft by 8ft, carries a flow at a gentle walking pace and discharges into Mugdock Reservoir some 26 miles distant at an elevation of 320ft. Much of the aqueduct has been constructed with a fall of a mere 10 inches per mile.



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ed section of the
near Kinlochard

About half of the aqueduct was constructed in a tunnel excavated through the hard rock using hand-held chisels and gunpowder. Progress was agonisingly slow, averaging about 15ft a month. There are also several elevated sections and the remainder was constructed by backfilled open cut.

The 1855 Act specified a minimum flow which had to be maintained in the River Teith and this required the construction of flow regulating dams on lochs Venachar and Drunkie. The construction of major water mains from Milngavie into Glasgow completed the first phase.



Queen Victoria opened the Loch Katrine Water Works on a day of appropriately heavy rain in October 1859. By March 1860, almost all of the north side of the city was connected to the new supply.



Some 3,000 men worked on the scheme and several hundred, many with their families, were accommodated in a temporary village at the head of Loch Chon. With a nod to the Crimean War, this village was known as Sebastopol on account of the noise of the blasting. It was said that most of the workforce in the village came from England and they would not allow Scots or Irish workers to live there. As you might imagine this was the source of some trouble, and a detachment of Black Watch soldiers was sent from Stirling to restore order.

A second aqueduct had always been planned, but its construction was brought forward to meet accelerating demand, especially from industry. It was approved in an 1885 Act and was constructed in seven stages, with the last not being completed until 1901. The first aqueduct follows the contours to a large extent, but improvements in tunnelling techniques allowed the second aqueduct (9ft by 9ft) to follow a more direct line, with the result that it is three miles shorter than the first.



The second aqueduct discharges into Craigmaddie Reservoir, the dam of which was the most difficult part of the entire project due to the highly fractured and porous sandstone at foundation level. It had to be excavated to a depth of 190ft and the trench infilled with puddle clay; this contract, which took six years, had to be re-tendered when the first contractor admitted defeat after 18 months.



With the completion of the second aqueduct, the capacity of the works increased from 50 to 110 million gallons a day. Subsequent additional works include the construction of Loch Arklet dam in 1914 and Glenfinglas Reservoir in 1958, both of which added significantly to the flow into Loch Katrine.

Following a major interconnection in the Scottish water grid in 2005, Glasgow now shares its Loch Katrine water with much of central Scotland.

It is 162 years since the first aqueduct opened and with a new treatment works near Milngavie and the recent completion of a £20-million refurbishment of the 1859 aqueduct, the future of the Loch Katrine Water Works has been ensured for at least another 162 years.

JOHN CARRUTHERS

Images above left: Opening the Works in 1859;
Kelvin Bridge on Great Western Road carries
Loch Katrine mains in towards the city centre
Above from top: the Craigmaddie trench;
inlet pond at Craigmaddie Reservoir

The Wine List: Thinking Inside the Box


If you were to Google 'camping in the UK', you would find over 5.4 million links to choose from in the blink of an eye. More of us are looking for holiday options closer to home, and sales of all things camping are through the roof. As a family, we have camped for years, and our choice of two weeks in northwest Scotland is not influenced at all by current travel restrictions.


But there will be two new additions to our camping kit this year: bag-in-box wine, which I will freeze and use to keep the cool box, well, cool, and wine in cans for when we are off adventuring. Due to the changes in how we socialise and drink, both categories have seen considerable growth and innovation over the last year and given their reduced environmental impact they are likely to continue to do so. There is now a plethora of good quality wines in both formats, and I want to recommend a few that are well worth trying.


For bag-in-box, I have mentioned before the very lovely wines of the BIB Wine Co. (bibwine.co.uk) and they continue to produce a range of premium wines. Another online option which can also be found in our supermarkets is When in Rome Wine (wheninromewine.com). Finally, one from supermarket shelves is the 19 Crimes range, a brilliantly easy drinking red, that is also offered in the bag-in-box format.

When it comes to wine in a can, the list could be extensive, but for now here are three really exceptional

producers that can be found online and in supermarkets and would lift anyone's spirits while camping in the baking Scottish summer...

 **HUN (hunwines.com)** HUN wines have captured the imagination so much, they have even made it onto the shelves in Tesco. Fairtrade wines from South Africa in the can, they are bright, easy drinking and their aim is to prove wine in a can is at least as good, if not better, as its bottled counterparts.

 **The Uncommon Wine of England (wearetheuncommon.co.uk)** These wines are stocked widely, reflecting just how easy it was to convince the wine buyers of the UK with their quirky packaging and exceptional English wines. The sparkling white and rosé are absolutely perfect, whether you are camping, or it is simply 5 o'clock on a Friday

 **Kiss of Wine (kissofwine.co.uk)** Taking a very clear approach to labelling, each can is named after the style of wine inside: chill, crisp, smooth, zest, feisty and wild. The irreverent approach to packaging does not continue to the wine; working with small, independent producers that have a passion for quality means you can try a really interesting range of well-made wines.

ELAINE TAYLOR

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Broadband Update and Digital Voice

By the time you read this, hopefully the first people in the Branziert and Drumbeg Loan will be benefiting from a new Fixed Wireless Internet Service provided by iLomond and supported by the Digital Scotland Voucher Scheme. Thanks to KCC for their support with the publicity. The delivery has been aided by Digital Scotland announcing that improved broadband, via a landline, would not happen in 2021 as planned. The voucher scheme then became applicable to these premises. This service builds on previous ones to supply Auchengillan, Edenmill and Stockiemuir, the first of which has been running for nearly four years.

Digital Voice is a new means of providing basic phone calls, and currently only applies to a few premises in Killearn with a full-fibre broadband connection. BT plan to introduce Digital Voice for everyone by 2025. This seems an ambitious target, though, given the size of the task and their delivery of superfast broadband thus far. The revised service is VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) technology that utilises the underlying broadband connection.

However, if you have special services, such as a health pendant or a burglar alarm, these should not be switched over at present and you should contact BT (0800 800 150 or text ALARM to 61998) to stop the switchover on these lines. You should also be aware that there will not be any other standard calls – including 999 – if there is a power cut (because it requires the hub to be active). So ensure that you have a charged mobile phone available as an alternative. BT has an optional Battery Backup Unit available that is recommended for customers living in an area prone to power cuts and where there's no reliable

mobile network. It is possible that your alarm company may offer a connection using the mobile 4G service as a replacement, but there is likely to be an additional charge for this.

The switchover process seems to start with a letter from BT announcing the change is coming, shortly followed by a text identifying a date for the change. There may also be a postcard round about the day of the change reminding you.

From a user perspective, all that's needed is to plug your existing telephone into the telephone socket on the back of the BT hub (typically a Smart Hub2). You simply have to move the telephone cable from your existing phone wall socket to this one on the hub.

With the new service it is necessary to dial the area code as well as your desired number, even for local calls. This can be a nuisance if you don't have a phone with a contact list function. A Digital VoIP handset, which has this feature is offered free by BT. If you have multiple telephone sockets in use, an adapter is also available, instead of the Digital Handset, again free of charge. A voucher code is required to obtain either of these for free, via the BT website shown in the letter.

Some redeeming aspects of the change: the 1571 Phone Message service has returned, along with Caller Line Identity that let's you see who's calling you. Both are currently provided free of charge.

All this information is also available from the KCC website (killearncc.org.uk/kgb-killearn.html#digvoice).

DOUG ASHWORTH, CHAIR,
KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP

Scam Alert

Over the last few months we have had the usual emails and phone calls, plus a few also coming to our mobiles. Younger members of the community should be equally alert to ignore these types of contact as well as our older residents. The scammers don't know who they are contacting and frankly they don't care as long as they can cause upset and achieve their aims of taking money or getting personal information that they can sell on to other fraudsters.

As well as specific messages to you via your mobile or tablet, there can be offers of 'freebies', 'contests' or even training and jobs. They're just trying to get enough personal information to create a false version of you – they'll use it to open a bank account or maybe a credit card, and run up bills in your name. They might use this false identity to illegally launder money.

It's sad to have to be so cynical and careful, but it's the only way to stop the fraudsters and scammers and keep yourself safe.

Have you received an email purporting to be from a genuine energy supplier saying that your transfer is being processed? Or maybe one trying to get you to share personal or financial details to correct a non-existent move between suppliers? A phone call suggesting that your National Insurance number is being used? How about a phone call supposedly from Microsoft wanting to remedy incorrect or incomplete software licencing? All scams!

Don't accept these 'cold calls' at face value. Be healthily sceptical. Hang up.

Don't use any phone number they give you or the phone number that may be displayed on the handset. Instead, wait a few minutes while you find a genuine phone number from paperwork you already have and then, if you still believe it's a genuine call, phone the real company on the number you already have.

Be sceptical! Stay safe!

DOUG ASHWORTH

Police Report



The main attraction again in Killearn has been the Devil's Pulpit which has been very busy with persons and vehicles. There were a several rescues in one week earlier in the summer, including one where a male fell down the embankment and suffered serious injuries.

In addition, there is the continuous problem caused by vehicles parked inappropriately along the verges and at entrances which should be kept clear. Council Enforcement Officers have issued a great number of tickets at this area, and we will continue to work alongside them to try and alleviate the issues.

Dumgoyne hill has become more popular this year and parking issues evident at the area around the distillery have been given extra attention to discouraging inappropriate parking.

Concerns regarding speeding are echoed throughout all the villages and Killearn is no different. Speed checks have been carried out and this will continue.

Bogus traders/cold callers have been reported in another village in the Forth and Endrick area. They go to great lengths to appear legitimate – genuine-looking websites, leaflets, fake online 'reviews'. Don't deal with cold callers saying urgent work needs done to your house right away and offering 'one-off' deals. Take time and make inquiries to check out any tradesmen you want to use. Find local traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards at <https://approvedtrader.scot/>.

If you go on holiday this autumn, there are a few steps you could take:

- Ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your house, and use Royal Mail's Keepsafe service, they will keep your mail for up to 66 days.
- Cancel any regular deliveries such as milk or newspapers.
- Use timers on lights, make sure your alarm is set.
- Don't post on social media that you're going on holiday!

More than 500,000 bikes are stolen in the UK each year because they are poorly secured or not secured at all. More than half of all bikes stolen are taken from the owner's property and the following tips can help with the security of your bike:

- Photograph and record all of your bike's details and distinguishing features; the serial number can be found on the bottom bracket.
- Register your bicycle securely online at the National Cycle Database (www.bikeregister.com).
- Lock your bike up every time you leave it using secure locks (like a D-lock or thick cable locks).
- Security mark your bike's frame with a UV pen or other method – the mark should include your home postcode and house number. We have bike marking kits, so if anyone wishes to have their bike marked, please get in touch.

If you want any further information or advice on any of the items raised in this report, please contact PC Steven Graham. He is based at Balfour Police Office, and can be contacted at the office, on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

They regularly publish information and appeals online. The local Facebook page can be found at 'Forth Valley Police Division' and the local Twitter feed is [@StirlingPol](https://twitter.com/StirlingPol).

The current ward priorities for the Forth and Endrick area remain antisocial behaviour, road safety, theft and community engagement and reassurance.


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Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
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Please feel free to contact me if you think I may be able to help you :

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Killearn Trust News

When Jim Fallas retired as a trustee in July 2020 after nearly 54 years of service, the trustees discussed a retirement present with him. He was delighted with the suggestion of a tree being planted on Well Green and immediately said he would like an oak tree. An oak tree was sourced at, appropriately, Oakwood Garden Centre, and purchased in the autumn. Unfortunately, the weather then intervened, and it was spring before we managed to get it planted. The tree is now in leaf and looking healthy. In due course we will arrange a plaque to be erected in memory of Jim and his service to the Trust.



The observant among you will have noticed that the toll charges notice had been removed from the Toll House wall. This was initially done to re-point the wall

behind the notice, and after discussion with the Purnells at the Toll House, it was decided to commission a new sign. This is now in situ.

The sign will be in an older looking style and will be linked into the Heritage Trail.

The conveyance definitions will be on the Heritage Trail website with purely the charges on the sign. The Trust is meeting the cost with part of a legacy left by the late Jean Clark.

The Trust has agreed to transfer the apex of the triangle of grass opposite the Square to the developers of the Black Bull Hotel, in order to give access to the future parking area on the south side of the building. The remainder of the area will be untouched by the development.

The Killearn Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in Scotland, No. SC003347. www.killearn.org.uk/killearntrust.html





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Ultra-Marathon Man

In May this year, Killearn runner Keith Kemsley completed the entire length of the West Highland Way, all 96 miles of it, non-stop in 28 hours. Not the first person from Killearn to complete this challenge, but what a feat!

Keith started running for fun in his 40s – competing regularly in the Balfour 10k and other local events before graduating to the Glasgow Half Marathon and then organising a team for the Highland Fling West Highland Way relay race. The inaugural Stirling Marathon and the 33-mile Glen Ogle Ultra Marathon followed in 2017. Increasing to solo runs in the 53-mile Highland Fling in 2018 and 2019, Keith had the running bug!

Interestingly, he found that the first few miles of any run were the most challenging, and as he took on longer distances, he increasingly enjoyed the experience – and the surroundings. On one occasion he was helping to marshal the extreme 95-mile West Highland Way Race when he decided he would rather be competing in the event than supporting it.

And so a long programme of training, preparation and conditioning began under the expert guidance of a distance running coach. Running an average of 50 miles a week over many months, Keith steadily built his fitness, stamina and endurance. He was accepted for the 2020 West Highland Way Race – but then the pandemic struck, cancelling the event.

Disappointed but determined, Keith continued to train through the winter in the expectation of competing in 2021. Early mornings, many hours, all weathers, challenging terrain: Keith built his fitness and stayed injury-free. Then dismay! The 2021 WHW Race was again pulled.



But Keith's coach and friends said 'go on, do it anyway'. So rapid, short-notice planning got underway. Friday, 21 May, was entered in the diary and fantastic logistical and running support was put in place without delay. A series of co-runners accompanied Keith all the way from Milngavie (daughter Ellie and long-suffering 'running-widow' Natalie, on the early legs) to Balmaha and Rowardennan, where hardy novice running pal, Jason, joined Keith for the remaining 70 miles! Other runners joined them for planned distances and his support crew supplied and monitored fuel, fluids and welfare. This is crucial. Keith describes endurance success as a third physical, a third mental and a third fuel.

Up the side of Loch Lomond, dusk at Beinglas, nightfall at Tyndrum, dawn at Rannoch Moor, up through Glen Coe, climbing the Devil's Staircase as the sun came up, Kinlochleven, round Ben Nevis and down, down to Fort William – and finally through the town to the finish line. Exhaustion, relief and elation in equal measure, and miraculously no blisters!

Well done, Keith, what a phenomenal effort! And cheers to his magnificent support team.

So, what's next? Keith would really like to do the official WHW Race proper next year. The fastest ever time is 13 hours 41 minutes, so he would like to complete it inside 24 hours... (Don't tell Natalie.)

NH

All About... All Killearn Archive

All Killearn Archive (AKA) was one of the first groups set up under the auspices of KCFC, with the aim of safeguarding the heritage of the village and parish.

The group gathers together artefacts, documents, photographs and personal memories relating to Killearn and makes the information available to all locally. The substantial collection comprises physical material, such as photograph albums, books and records of village societies no longer in existence (and some that still are), together with numerous miscellaneous collections of documents.

In addition there is a large digital archive. This includes scanned photographs, many of which are retained by their owners and so are only generally available from our collection. The archive also includes digitised documents such as census returns, valuation rolls and interment records, which otherwise would only be accessible through official archives in Stirling and Edinburgh. The information and digitised photographs from the collection have been extensively used in the

creation of the Killearn Heritage Trail.

What is routine life today will be history tomorrow, and so AKA must continue collecting and preserving material. There are still numerous old records to add – additional census records, more valuation rolls, transcription of the hand-written Old Parish Records, for example. We continue to be gifted documentation, much of which is just filed for future study. Only a relatively small part of the archive has been catalogued to allow those carrying out research to easily find items of interest.

The group would welcome new members especially to help either with cataloguing our present material or visiting the Stirling Archive or the Mitchell Library to extract additional local records. A specific need is someone who has the knowledge to put dates to our old photographs, as very few have dates attached to them.

If you would like to be involved in any way, contact Peter or Gill (550726; pandg@john-lewis.com).

GS

Curling – Hopes for the Future

The situation for the next season is looking a little brighter than this time last year. Ice allocations have been given to the clubs and other organisations booking ice, including our local Province. We hope that play will be more or less back to normal, but we can only wait and see.

Active Stirling, who operate The Peak, have allowed Stirling Curling Group, who represent the clubs, to arrange a 'Bounce Back' week at the end of August. The idea is to help players get their confidence and skills back after an 18-month gap and to practise playing in fun competitions.

The main club has organised two single-round leagues with six teams in each. The ladies section has two leagues with four teams in each, but three rounds in the autumn and two in the spring.

The club held an online AGM in April. Bob Glass succeeded Walter Macgowan as president and Tony Flisch became secretary in place of Diana Jackson. Gail Pain is continuing as president of the ladies section. The club will be 175 years old in 2021, so a special celebration will be held in due course.

Although it is rarely mentioned in the press, Scotland's curlers have done well internationally. Both the men's and women's teams played in the World Championships in Canada. The men won the silver medal and guaranteed their place in the 2022 Winter Olympics. The women were not so fortunate. They finished eighth and will need to play in a further qualifying competition for one of the three remaining places. The most outstanding result came in Aberdeen in the Mixed Doubles World Championship. Bruce Mouat of the men's team and Jennifer Dodds of the women's team not only

qualified for the Olympics, but won the championship.

The contacts for the club are Tony Flisch (860580) or Gill Smith (550726), or look at our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

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Wild and Free – Making A Splash!

Through lockdown many people have grown to appreciate even more the wonderful surroundings we live in. Combined with the limitations on travel, this has resulted in a number of pastimes mushrooming in popularity.

Many folk have walked more in the past 16 months than ever before, sales of camper vans have ‘gone through the roof’, bicycles have been ‘flying off the shelves’ and two leisure activities have really taken off: stand-up paddle boarding and open water swimming.

There is now a whole community of people enjoying wild swimming in the lochs, seas and rivers of Scotland. Facebook and WhatsApp groups abound. Open water swimming is not for everyone. It is often cold; deep, dark waters can be scary; it can be dangerous if safety is not taken seriously; and wrestling into and out of a wetsuit on the waterfront is not everyone’s idea of fun!

So, why do people do it? And, if you wanted to try it, what do you need to know and where would you go?

Committed swimmer, Vivienne Anne Dow says: ‘Wild swimming provides a complete lifeline for me. I have been a pool swimmer all my life, but it pales



into insignificance when compared to swimming in the beautiful lochs, lakes and rivers we have on our doorstep. Even if swimming head down, when you look up, you marvel at the amazing scenery and are in awe of what our country brings us – the hills, the skies, the water. To be in tune with nature gives you that peace and serenity to put your worries aside – and the adrenaline rush when you get out is second to none. (And there is normally cake!)

Viv explains: ‘Not only the mental health benefits, but the physical gains are amazing. As someone who is a cancer sufferer, wild

The adrenaline rush when you get out is second to none

swimming gives me that break from reality that I need and strive for. The community of people is fantastic: all levels, all abilities, all shapes and sizes – no one is left out. I have too many favourite places to swim to list them all, but I will go with lochs Lubnaig, Chon, Venachar, but my wee local ‘Abies’ aka Drumbrock Loch at Mugdock holds a special place in my heart. I could talk about it forever.’

Regular swimmer and paddle boarder Trish Scott says: ‘I love the outdoors, I like meeting new people and I adore the buzz it gives me when I come out of the cold water. My own favourite spots? Loch Ard, Loch Chon and Milarrochy Bay on Loch Lomond.’

Qualified instructor and all-weather swimmer (right through the winter months!) Sheila McFarlane provides tips for beginners. Take it slowly, enjoy it at your own pace. There is no need to compete with others on kit, speed or duration time. Ask advice from other swimmers – always a friendly and helpful bunch. Be prepared with a hot drink and warm clothes for coming out the water. Essential kit includes a hi-vis swimming cap, tow float and open water swimming goggles. A wet suit, a flask for a hot drink afterwards (and, of course, cake) are highly recommended. Everything else is optional. In terms of safety, acclimatise to cold water gradually (don’t dive in; walk in slowly) and don’t swim alone (unless experienced and you know the water).

It is wonderful, exhilarating, liberating and uplifting. If it might be for you – give it a try.

NH

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Rugby Round-Up

Girls Just Want to Have Fun

At the end of last season, women took centre stage at Fintry, with the long-awaited introduction of girls and women's rugby at Strathendrick.

Junior girls up to the age of 18 are now starting to play full contact rugby – training on Thursday evenings, with up to 30 players in various age groups. The ambition is to build sides to play other schools or clubs in parallel with the boys. The talent and skills on display are truly impressive.

And on Monday evenings, Women's touch rugby is proving a huge success. Upwards of 40 players come and enjoy a game, laugh a lot and then enjoy refreshments in the clubhouse.

Meanwhile, the boys

As the 2021–22 season gets underway the established teams are well into pre-season training and preparation. The Senior men's 1st and 2nd XVs train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and – having lost an entire season due to the pandemic – are looking forward to some competitive rugby once again.



Women's Touch Rugby on Monday evening's is hugely popular

The Balfroon-Endrick Midi and Youth teams are also preparing for forthcoming league fixtures at every age group in the Barbarian Conference. For details of which teams are training or playing where, please visit the club website (www.strathendrickrfc.com).

The Minis have healthy numbers of players and coaches training, with fixtures and tournaments on Sunday mornings.

New players are most welcome at every level – please come along to a training night or contact Steven (smccoey126@btinternet.com) for Juniors, and Jeremy (jeremy@talentstrengths.com) for Seniors.

Tennis Club News

Spring has been busy at the Tennis Club and again, great to see such activity on the courts with relevant guidelines still in place. We are gradually getting back to some normality, so hopefully can look forward to better times ahead.

Junior coaching has taken place over the last few months and we've had a great turnout of children taking part, which is wonderful news. Junior coaching is available for non-members, too – we would be delighted to discuss booking details.

The club caters for all levels of players, from total beginners to team players. We have social tennis, which is perfect for those non-competitive players who would like a little exercise and perhaps a bit more chat!

We previously mentioned that a few committee members had recently retired, namely Elaine Henderson, Suzanne Hendry and Sandy Benson. We would again like to thank them for their amazing hard work and commitment to the club. Thanks also to David McKay for his involvement.

With restrictions hopefully being lifted in August, we are potentially planning to have an open day at the club at some point then. So fingers crossed, members will have the opportunity to get together socially for

the first time in many months, and for non-members to come and join in. Maybe you'd like to have a game of tennis or perhaps just come along for the strawberries and cream and refreshments? All will be more than welcome.

The courts are looking great and we have recently planted up a beautiful flowerbed which gives a great splash of colour to the grounds. Thanks Roni and Gill for the hard work (and Bill for supervising!).

Tennis is such fun and a great opportunity to meet new friends in the local community. Hope we'll see you at the courts soon.

For more information, please have a look at our website www.killeartennisclub.org.uk or see us on Facebook.

GILL JOHNSTONE



Killearn Football Club News

Friday, 8 June, was the long awaited date: football kicked off again in the Forth & Endrick League. Our young squad were primed and ready for this shorter season, due to the delayed start. It began strongly with a good victory away at Thornhill. The games after that saw Killearn competing well and earning some good fighting draws, notably away to Deanston, and some wins, too.

However, we have just come up short against the teams at the top of the table, losing close games to Drymen, Blanefield and Buchlyvie in particular. This has dented our chances of competing for the league title, but we always knew this year would be tough, as we build a



young team that can compete for the main trophies in the future. The team is gaining experience with every game. It's also been brilliant to have such a large squad – the lack of strength in depth has hampered us in the past.

Off the pitch we continue to thrive, with active participation in this year's virtual Killearn 10k, continuation of our 59 Club and we also got the chance to celebrate our captain Iain Crawford's 40th birthday!

Finally, to the supporters who have attended our matches – thank you. It means a lot to all of us to see so many turn up and cheer on the team.

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*Free flow samples only. The test does not include catheterisation or cystocentesis

** Does not include treatment of broken/injured nails or infected anal glands.

YOU CAN ALSO SAVE EVEN MORE WITH:

- 100% off Insurance claim admin fees
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Royal Canin, Hill's, Nature's Range, Burgess Excel, Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets & Pro Plan Expert Care Nutrition ranges as stocked by the vet practice. Subject to availability.

A Real Killearn 10k 2021 Virtual Race

The first-ever virtual Killearn 10k (and let's hope it's also the last) brought some well-earned summer fun to the village on the first Saturday in June.

Proudly decked out in their limited-edition race T-shirts, little knots of runners took on the traditional pipe track course or pounded the streets, each giving all they had to record the best possible time.

And friends from further afield – the furthest afield was Australia – took advantage of the altered format to join in the fun.

In all, more than 70 runners took part, a creditable turnout for a virtual event. We were particularly thrilled with all the support from village and G63 entrants: a big thank you to you all.

Adam Martin flashed round his own course in a sizzling 40:11 to take both the 1st Male and 1st G63 Male honours. Ross Nicholl was runner-up overall and first in the Veterans 40 category; James Kingsley came third overall.

Killearn's own Jude Holt was 1st Female, 1st G63 Female and 1st V40 Female, and her time of 47:20 was good enough for sixth place overall. Shona Nicolson was second female and Catriona Tennant, third.

In their always keenly contested race within a race, James Roxby was first round Killearn Football Club's own village course to earn team bragging rights. Teammate Matthew Anderson came second to James,



but had the consolation of being first overall in the Male under-20 category. Cara Owens was first Female under 20.

John McQuillan was 1st Male in the Veterans 50 section, with Liz Duncan 1st Female. The Veterans 60 honours went to Colin Kerr and Jackie Hawkins.

Race day was also the last day of the Killearn special k, our week-long accumulator team event where the aim was to rack up as many kilometres as possible. We're delighted to announce that the Rainbow Dream Team were the first mixed-age team, and the Rad-ish Runner Beans were tops for over-16s. There were prizes for the winners, thanks to the generosity of the Killearn Trust.

Of course, it wasn't the event we hoped to have (we missed all our fabulous marshals for one thing), but with Covid having already put paid to the 2020 race we were determined not to be beaten again.

Thanks to all involved in the organisation for a lot of hard work, and to the runners whose support made it all worthwhile. We're already looking forward to racing again – for real – in 2022.

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Bridge by Zorro

Solution to the problem on page 10

Easy, isn't it?

Using Revolving discards either the ♦8 or the ♣3 – you have a choice! With Dodds, however, you would need an odd card in Diamonds which you don't have, or you have to waste the ♥10.

With McKenney, you could use a low Diamond (lower of the other two suits) or a high Spade (higher of the other two suits) both of which are available in this example.

Give a discard system a try and see how it helps when defending tight contracts. No system is perfect, but agreement with your partner is crucial.

With acknowledgement to *Signals & Discards for You* by Andrew Kambites, and *Discarding by* David Bakhshi.

James Alexander Fallas 1929 – 2021

Jim Fallas was born in Ayrshire, the middle child of the family of three. His father was a shepherd, work involving many moves in what was a time of depression and insecurity of employment. One of these moves brought the family to Killearn, where for several years they enjoyed village life, good schooling and membership of the church. When his father sought employment elsewhere, the family was uprooted, moving to different homes with frequent changes of school for the children.

When not at school, Jim was brought in to help on the farm where his father was employed, and he learned to turn his hand to many tasks. On leaving school, Jim secured an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic in Lyell's garage, Blanefield. The family had been accustomed to visiting Killearn for holiday breaks, and here Jim found lodgings and fitted happily into the social life of the village, attending dances and playing football. The minister, on encountering a group of youths, asked them into the manse and invited them to come to the Kirk. This was the beginning of Jim's long association with the church.

In 1947 Jim was conscripted into the army and, after initial training with the Black Watch in Perth, was attached to REME as a driver and mechanic. He was posted to a variety of areas in England and then overseas to Malaysia, where, despite the war having ended, the British army was involved in helping to establish peace in the area. He was demobbed after two years, and returned to his former work at Lyell's, again lodging in Killearn and participating in the life of the village. He then gained employment in Glasgow, first with Prossers, then with The Clyde Automobile Ltd., which was taken over by A&D Frasers (Appleyards), where Jim steadily worked through many changes in the motor industry to become general manager.

Jim met Mary Macleod from Stornoway in Blanefield. They courted and married in 1952, settling in Killearn and raising their family – a daughter and two sons – first at Carbeth Stables and then in one of the new houses built in 1959 in the centre of the village. He was a devoted husband and father and, in time, a proud grandfather and great-grandfather.

Central to the life of the village, Jim was renowned for the support he gave to his neighbours and to the community in general. His connection to the church,



first encouraged by the Rev. MacIennan Macleod, continued for the rest of his life. He was an elder for over 55 years and ran the Leprosy Fund for which he encouraged the support of the congregation by saving used postage stamps. He was closely associated with the Boys' Brigade in Killearn for 40 years and was its Captain for 20. He worked for the Poppy Appeal for 50 years, receiving a commendation for this, and annually organised the Remembrance Day parade and service at the War Memorial. He was a member of Killearn Trust, and also contributed to numbers of projects that benefited the lives of Killearn residents.

He also supported organisations beyond the village, such as Erskine Hospital and the Gurkhas. The list is endless – and his contribution immense.

He was indefatigable, energetic, enthusiastic, encouraging and supportive. In his retirement, he continued to help neighbours with gardening and domestic repairs. Recognition of his public service came in 2006 when Jim was given Stirling Council Provost's Award for services to the community; he and Mary took part in a celebratory evening at Stirling Castle when this award was presented.

In a busy life, time for hobbies must have been limited. However, Jim, with his Ayrshire origins, loved Burns; he was a keen reader, interested in history, and enjoyed listening to opera and operetta, especially Gilbert and Sullivan. With his practical bent, he was happy gardening and was an enthusiastic woodworker, enjoying working on his lathe. The signs at the entries to the village were Jim's idea and his work. They stand as a reminder of him.

Upright, both physically and in his character, Jim was a well-known and a much respected figure as he went about the village. Greatly loved by family and friends, his presence is much missed, but his reputation will live on as testified by the selection of tributes opposite.

BP

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Gay Hinchcliff 1925 – 2021

Tributes to Jim Fallas

We were somewhat overwhelmed by the number of local organisations and residents wanting to record their involvement with Jim. The following is a representative selection.

A tireless giver of his own time to the benefit of local causes, Jim has freely given of his talents to the benefit of Killearn.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST'S AWARD 2006
TO JIM FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Jim was a great man and leaves a great legacy in so many ways and for so many people.

A BB COLLEAGUE

A true gentleman... he was an old school gentleman.

WORK COLLEAGUES: CAMMY BALLANTYNE,
MORRIS LIGHTFOOT, DONALD MACKENZIE,
KENNY MACASKILL, FERGUS HENDERSON,
DARREN RAESIDE

Jim, always a wonderfully reliable, popular and stalwart member of the Killearn Trust team.

JAMIE PARKER, KILLEARN TRUST

Jim was very conscious of what the Trust could do for the benefit of the residents of the village and the environment of Killearn. No job was too small or too irrelevant for him.

KAY POLLOCK, MEMBER OF KILLEARN TRUST

A gentleman and a friend, Jim will be sorely missed by a great many people in the Killearn community.

BILL RIDDELL, A FRIEND

Jim was very much someone who believed in just getting on and doing things. He would work away seeing to the little things that many folk would miss. He was involved in so many aspects of village life.

CAROLE YOUNG, A KIRK SESSION COLLEAGUE

Jim made a walking stick for the use of anyone coming to church.

JOHN SMITH, A KIRK ELDER

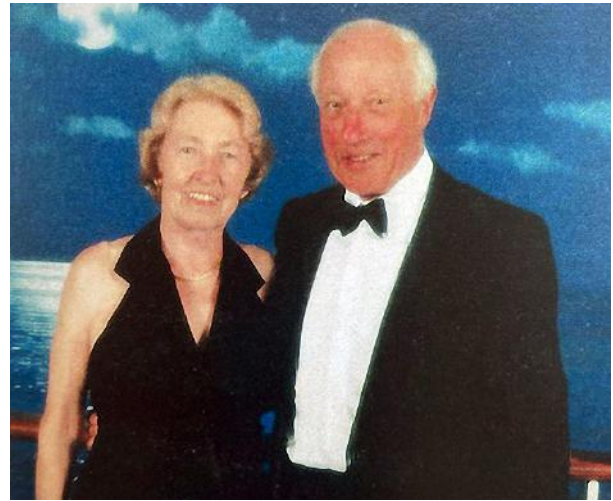
I worked closely with Jim on the Millennium Committee, and also updating the book *The Parish of Killearn*. He was so knowledgeable about every aspect of village life and happy to share this with us all. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed.

FIONA GLASS, COMMITTEE COLLEAGUE

A good man and had a great influence on more people than he probably knew.

Jim was a great man and always took time to guide and help you.

Jim was a great guy – a lot of respect for the way he went about his job.



Gay was born on 5 February 1925, the second child into the family, after her elder brother. The family lived in the West End of Glasgow. Gay went to Laurel Bank School for Girls and, during the war years, progressed to the vet school at Glasgow University. Gay duly qualified and was awarded her MRCVS on 18 December 1947. She was also awarded a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, BVMS for short, by the Senate of Glasgow University on the 28 June 2010, when she was 85.

After qualifying, Gay worked in England for a few years before returning to Glasgow and joining a practice just off Byres Road. Gay eventually bought the practice and worked out of her house at Queen's Crescent and at surgeries in Bearsden and off the Byres Road.

After Gay's mother died, her uncle took her on a cruise to cheer her up. While at the bar in the Madeira Hotel she met her future husband Bill. They were married in 1962 and had a honeymoon in the Turnberry Hotel. Shortly after, Gay and Bill moved first to a flat in Kelvin Court and later to Mill Cottage in Killearn. Gay sold the veterinary practice, retrained as a teacher and taught Science at Douglas Academy in Milngavie, which she enjoyed enormously.

Both Gay and Bill became big golf enthusiasts and even bought a small holiday home on the edge of the North Berwick golf course. They enjoyed going into Glasgow and watching plays and listening to orchestras, and generally they became very good at enjoying themselves.

Gay was a woman with a commanding presence. She did not suffer fools gladly and enjoyed a debate on many subjects. She is remembered for her kindness by her nephew when she would take him and his brother out of school for treats. When, in recent years, he confessed to her that she terrified him when he was young, her response 'and that's how it should be', which was said with a look in her eye and just the hint of a grin.

He reflects that is difficult to talk about Gay without mentioning Bill. They were inseparable. Gay and Bill had a very loving marriage for around 55 years and both had a zest for life.

RC/BP

Alistair Crombie 1936 – 2021

Alistair Crombie was born on the 18 November 1936 to Christine and William Crombie. He was the eldest of a large family.

Alistair attended Buchlyvie Primary and finished his schooling at Balfron High. In his youth, he was an active member of the BB and Buchlyvie Church.

Over his working life, Alistair had many jobs, but the one he enjoyed most was as a bus driver with the late Donald Beaton as his conductor. A special mention must go to his personal barber, Peter Gibb. 'A haircut, a dram and a blether!' He also worked for a while as a heating and oil engineer with Mitchell's Oils of Paisley.

Alistair and Margaret officially met at a local dance in Gartmore. In their courting days, they would enjoy travelling the county on their beloved Triumph motorbike. They got married on 24 September 1960 at Gartmore church. Most of their 60 years of married life were enjoyed in Killearn where they soon set about adding family to their home with the arrival of Marie and Stewart.

Over the years, Alistair enjoyed many types of sport. He played football for Buchlyvie, as well as his summer ice and bowling at Fintry. He was also a member at Aberfoyle Golf Club. Family holidays were spent in Aberdeen or touring Scotland and only more latterly in Tenerife or on a cruise. In 1994, Alastair appeared in the first ever televised Scottish Criminal Court case – his 15 minutes of fame as a witness!

Alistair was quick to laugh and easy going, but he hated being late, so punctuality was important. A ready helper and a good friend to many, so often putting others first, or going out of the way to help. 'Never a Truer Gentleman'.
RICHARD PATTEN



Sydney Brown 1954 – 2021

Syd, as he was familiarly known, was born in Killearn Hospital, the youngest son of David and Rose Brown, one of a family of six living first in Buchanan Road and then in Crosshead Road. He was educated at Killearn Primary and Balfron High School and was very much a village boy, playing football for Killearn and a member of the local Boys' Brigade. After school, his first job was in Killearn Hospital before moving on to Gartnavel Hospital where he began training in orthotics – a branch of medicine dealing in the provision and use of artificial devices to support the muscular and skeletal systems.

When medically qualified, he began a successful career as an orthotist, first in Leeds and then nationally working at various UK hospitals and clinics. His skills were widely respected and his concern for his patients was greatly appreciated.

Always energetic and keen on sport, he took up golf, which became his chief leisure interest, playing for many years at Oakdale Golf Club and on many other courses throughout the UK and abroad; he also returned to playing team football in Harrogate and won many trophies in both sports. He enjoyed music – listening, and singing and playing guitar.

Syd met his first wife, Charlotte, in Strathblane; they married in Scotland before relocating to Harrogate to start their life away from Killearn. Their first child, Robert, was born in Glasgow before the move to England and, soon after, Karen was born in Harrogate. Syd and Charlotte lived in Harrogate until the early '90s. Later, he and Charlotte divorced, and some time after, he married Tracey, adding her children, Becky and Tom, to his family. Syd and Tracey divorced some years later.

Syd resettled back in Harrogate to be close to his children, spending time with Karen and continuing his passion for golf and mountain walks with Robert.

Syd remained greatly loved by all his children and grandchildren. He is remembered by them with fondness and gratitude for the way he supported them in their interests as they grew up, for his patience and kindness, and for sharing with them the activities he loved.

When Syd was diagnosed with dementia he was at first in denial, but with his customary fortitude, he made the decision to retire and to return to the village of his birth. He settled back in Killearn, determined to live his life to the full. He became a familiar figure walking through the village, greeting all whom he met on his way. Sadly his condition developed relentlessly and claimed him too soon. He is deeply missed by his friends and family.

RB/BP

Lawrence Crawford

The death of Lawrence Crawford of Napier Road occurred on 12 February 2021. A devoted family man, he is deeply missed by his wife, Jane, and his family.



Mike Menzies 1944 – 2021

Mike was born in Alyth, near Blairgowrie, in December 1944. The family then moved to Shropshire where Mike started boarding school. He later attended Fettes College in Edinburgh. On leaving school, Mike joined SMT as a management trainee and successfully graduated in 1966. After training, he initially specialised in commercial vehicles and then moved to prestige cars.

Mike married Sue in 1969, and they set up home in the West End of Glasgow. Shortly afterwards, they moved to Dundee, where Vicki and Jo were born. In 1978, the family relocated to Killearn, where Mike and Sue spent the next 39 years and the family have many happy memories.

Mike immersed himself in village life. He transferred from Dundee Tayside Round Table in 1978 to Blane Valley Round Table. He joined the Rotary Club of Strathendrick in 1983. He went on to become President of the Rotary Club in 1988 and he remained an active member for 28 years. Mike also served on the PTA at Killearn Primary School and the Killearn Community Council. He also helped transport camping equipment for the Killearn Guide Group.

Mike retired from official working life in 2009 after 46 years in the motor industry. He became involved with the Strathendrick Classic Car Club, and both he and Sue enjoyed trips away and classic car runs. He played golf regularly at Balfron Golf Club and he also enjoyed lunch with the Flat Cap Society and the Dinner Club.

Mike also served on the Abbeyfield Committee in Killearn and established the 'News Review'. He felt that the residents would benefit from a relaxed cup of coffee and a chat about current affairs. It was a real hit and the residents looked forward to these events.

Muriel May Miller 1923 – 2021

Muriel Miller came to Killearn Abbeyfield in 2004 to be closer to her family, and here she spent 17 happy years, becoming the longest resident of the house.

Muriel was born in Northumberland and moved with her parents to Berwick-upon-Tweed in 1930 where she spent much of a happy childhood. On leaving school she took a job in a local departmental store prior to her intention of training as a nurse. World War II changed everything and she signed up, joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force where she trained as a driver and was soon driving three-ton lorries. She spent most of her war service stationed on the Morayshire coast where she was responsible for driving bomber crews out to their aircraft. These included, although she didn't know it on the night, the crew of the Lancaster bomber which was en route to sink the battleship *Tirpitz*.

Soon after the end of the war she met Dave Miller. Romance blossomed and they married in 1948, setting up home in St Boswells and then moving to Duns, where Dave was county architect for Berwickshire Council.

In 2017, Mike and Sue moved back to the east coast and settled in Broughty Ferry. They kept in touch with old friends from Strathendrick, got reacquainted with friends from Dundee and also made lots of new friends around Broughty Ferry.



Mike joined the Dundee Museum of Transport as a volunteer guide shortly after moving and made many friends there. He volunteered at the museum every week, and he enjoyed meeting people and sharing detailed information about the exhibits.

A private funeral was held due to Covid-19 restrictions. Donations were made to Scottish Air Ambulance as they helped Mike in 2010. The family would like to express their thanks to all those who donated.

Many friends describe Mike as a perfect gentleman, a kind friend with a good sense of fun. He was also a devoted family man.

In later life, Mike thoroughly enjoyed his role as Grampa to his four grandchildren. They found him very patient, generous and full of fun. We are all sorry to have lost him so suddenly, but we are grateful for the big part he played in all our lives. THE MENZIES FAMILY

Here their two children, David and Susan, were born and grew up.

Muriel's life was greatly devoted to looking after others: raising her children and caring for her mother-in-law and finally for her husband who suffered with ill health prior to his death at the age of 69. When her own children were grown and married and having their families, she delighted in the arrival of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a most gracious lady, always immaculate in her appearance, whose gentle manner endeared her to all she met. She always saw the best in others, and made and retained the many friendships that developed throughout her life. She will be remembered with great affection by all those people and most of all by her loving family. BP



William Russell Kirk 1942 – 2021

Russell Kirk was born to Jim and Jean Kirk in Paisley and educated at Paisley Grammar School. When he was in 5th year at secondary school he did a paper round, using the money he earned to buy a bike and a trumpet. His interests didn't change over the years, as he enjoyed both of these activities well into his 60s, as many neighbours can testify!

Dentistry was Russell's first choice of career, but due to skin issues he had as a teenager, this led to a last-minute change of subject at Glasgow University, and he graduated in 1964 with a BSc in Pharmacy, followed by a postgraduate year in retail in Paisley, where he met Sandra. He returned to academia, this time to Strathclyde University to do an MSc, followed by a period as an assistant lecturer. By this time, married life and the birth of daughter Lindsay, followed by the arrival of son Alistair, had taken the family in a new direction, and Russell returned to retail pharmacy.

After a few years the family arrived in Killearn and in a short time, the opportunity arose to buy The Pharmacy in Balfroun where Russell had 20 very busy, but very happy, years. During this time, a second pharmacy in Killearn was opened, managed by Kenny More.

Russell 'retired' just before his 55th birthday – he said at the time that you can only work 80 to 100 hours a week for so many years. Looking for a change of direction, he took a post at Lennox Castle, helping to close it down. He was then offered a post at Leverndale Hospital. After the

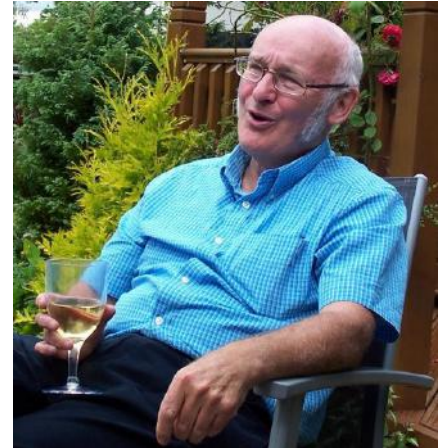
pressures of retail pharmacy, this felt almost like a part-time job and gave him more time to spend with the three grandchildren who had now arrived and were a big part of his and Sandra's lives.

Russell was a well-read man and loved nothing more than spending time discussing and debating a range of subjects with family and friend – theology, geography, history, geology – usually with a glass in his hand.

In the local pharmacies, his ready smile and helpful manner inspired confidence and was much appreciated by his customers.

He was a man of great faith who lived his life according to Micah 6:8 – to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with his God.

Diagnosed with Alzheimer's four and a half years ago, his decline was sad to see. Russell will be much missed by all the family and the many friends he and Sandra had over the years.



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Ian Lindsay MacDonald Kirton 1930 – 2021

Ian was born in Clydebank into a family of five brothers and two sisters. He lived in Third Terrace in an area known locally as 'The holy City'. After the first night of the Clydebank blitz (13–14 March 1941), he and other children were evacuated to Rossdhu House, home of Sir Ian Colquhoun. Despite watching and hearing the explosions from afar, he remembered fondly the contrast between his home and the beauty of the countryside. He recalled many adventures, Sir Ian's kindness and encouragement to live life to the best of your abilities.

Ian attended Vale of Leven Academy and Hyndland Senior Secondary, leaving with 'Higher Certificates' but no plans for the future other than to be a rolling stone and to meet people from all walks of life. What followed was clerical work, mining at Manor Powis Colliery, Stirling, forestry work, farming, sheep framing and then scaffolding.

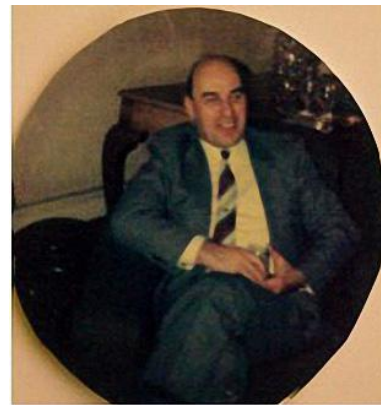
Realising there were opportunities in the builder's merchant trade, he started with J & W Henderson, where his enthusiasm and thirst for learning were rewarded with quick promotion. Always with an eye for opportunity, he moved to Monteith Building Services, progressing through the ranks to director. Never one for standing still, Ian opened a small DIY business in Kirkintilloch. It was successful, but was sold to raise capital for a new venture in scaffolding. In an era of industrial unrest and constant

employment disputes it did not fare so well, and Ian returned to the employment market with Evode Holdings Ltd.

He considered himself the luckiest man in the world when he married Moira on 19 January 1965. A happy and successful marriage, both partners had matching temperaments and a love of music, especially opera. They moved as a couple many times, finally settling in Killearn some 30 years ago.

He was a man of belief and a belief in community. He was an Elder at Killearn Kirk and latterly worshipped at Drymen Parish Church. He served as secretary in the early years of Killearn Primary School Board (School Council since 2007) and for many years on Forth Valley Health Board. If you wanted something done, he was the one to do it.

Ian was well known, friendly, well turned out. He walked to the Co-op to get his daily paper, and his welcoming, cheery demeanour and signature deer stalker will be sadly missed. BA



Donald Brown 1936 – 2021

Donald Brown, the former owner of Killearn Garage, died in June. He lived in Drymen, but was well known by many Killearn residents.

Donald's early life was spent in the south of England, but his family returned to Scotland to join relatives in Ayrshire in order to escape the bombing during World War II. He spent an idyllic childhood on his grandparents' farm in Ayrshire. When his parents moved to Glasgow, he lived in Hyndland and was educated at Allan Glen's School, where he excelled in sports.

In his youth his chief interest was to dismantle and rebuild parts of old cars. His fascination for cars, which was to last a lifetime, led him to take a job with Melvin Motors in St Vincent Street where he quickly became the youngest sales manager in the motor trade in Glasgow.

In 1971 he purchased the land previously known as The Square, where the original garage was situated. He became the founder and proprietor of Killearn Garage Co. and developed shop premises (now occupied by Endrick Blooms), together with office space and a forecourt for the garage with access and parking for customers. A one-way system was introduced and the area was re-named Headrigg Square. For some years a dealership was established as a British Leyland franchise, becoming Austin Rover, followed by MG Rover as the

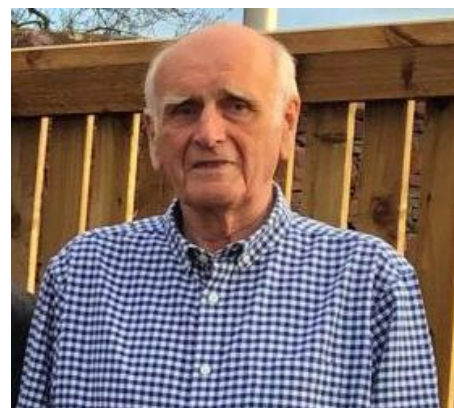
brands became amalgamated.

Hardworking, honest and straightforward, Donald and his business thrived. He said the village was good to him but, in return, the garage was good to the

village, where people were grateful to have advice and service they could trust readily available. He retired in 1997, when Iain, his son, took over.

Donald was the originator of the gathering of classic cars in the Balfron 700 event. This led directly to the formation of the Strathendrick Classic Car Club in 2003 in which Donald, with his unrivalled knowledge of old cars, played an instrumental role.

Although by nature quite reserved, his approachable manner and equable temperament won him many friendships lasting a lifetime. He was a devoted family man and, with his wife Karin, enjoyed travel and sport. His love of old cars remained all his life. BP



PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD

Set by PeeWit

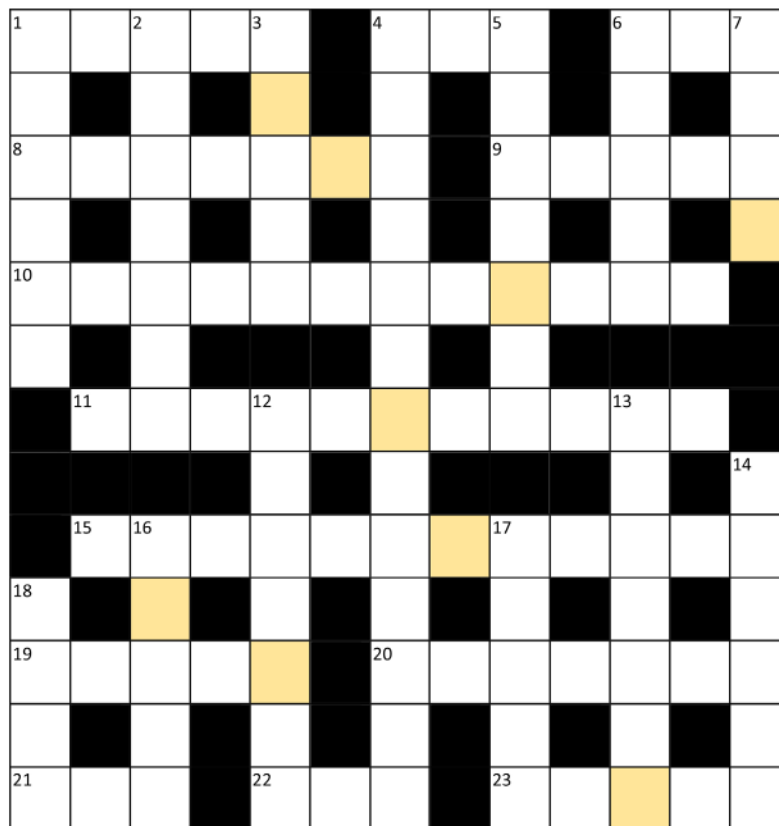
Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days and Covid-19. Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would like to thank both the Ambassador Theatre Group and Co-operative Food for their generosity in providing the prizes for our competitions.

ACROSS

- 1 Cannot pedal back in but is proficient (5)
- 4 Silent parent (3)
- 6, 8, 15 Our anniversary (3,7,7,5)
- 9 Appliance is less wet (5)
- 10 He's belting us around with a jazz number (4,3,5)
- 11 Old executive – yes, number unobtainable (2-7)
- 19 Noise from disheartened thing, pale inside (5)
- 20 Love deception involving label's shape (7)
- 21 Managed in car anxiously (3)
- 22 Fish has boy's name (3)
- 23 A man could be a spy (5)

DOWN

- 1 Entry permitted when 100 cases destroyed (6)
- 2 Ex eats quinoa endlessly at this time of year (7)
- 3 Oliver's dance (6)
- 4 Memory not cake gives this monetary system (6,7)
- 5 Daft mule without its tail played around area when the tide goes out (7)
- 6 Seasoning in healthy meals (5)
- 7 Listener – novice nobleman (4)
- 12 At home possibly greet one or two (7)
- 13 Outcast seeks safe place in Europe (7)
- 14 Young one sounds like a signature ring (6)
- 16 Doctor, Scots own this water outlet (5)
- 17 Overweight women start a Muslim ruling (5)
- 18 Rodents return to being famous (4)



Winner of the last crossword: Sue Beck, Killearn

The letters in the coloured squares make up an anagram of a place in Killearn (4,5). Solve the crossword and find the answer to the anagram. This is the solution; email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send it to the *Courier*. Instructions in the box below.

Solution to the last crossword: *Across*: 7 horses; 8 dancer; 10 invalided; 11 ski; 12 misintend; 14 dog; 15 coy; 16 dreamland; 18 tom; 20 sociology; 21 lollop; 22 on edge
Down: 1 theism; 2 travesty; 3 declined; 4 band; 5 acts; 6 trying; 9 adherence; 13 Dumgoyne; 14 diamonds; 15 cattle; 17 Drymen; 19 malt; 20 show

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORDSEARCH

Find 10 words in the word search grid that are cities in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Eight of the cities are: *Aberdeen, Belfast, Carlisle, Gloucester, Portsmouth, Stirling, Swansea, Winchester.*

Find the other two cities, write them down and post them or email them to the *Courier* for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op.

Please give your name, your age and a contact address or telephone number. Entrants must be 12 or under.

Instructions for sending it are given in the box below.



Winner of the last Children's Competition, Marcus Wright, aged 7, Killearn

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry – it's easy! Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win. Email your solution(s) to peewit@kfc.co.uk, or drop it in the postbox outside the Village Hall. Remember to give your name, address and a contact phone number before **30 August 2021**.

Utterly Legless

One hot sunny afternoon in the early 1990s, I was lying back on a travel rug in a secluded spot in the Trossachs, when a very strange thing happened. To my disbelief, some unseen force started ruffling various sections of the rug, while I became increasingly aware of a wriggling and writhing underneath it. Topping up my tan would have to wait!

I tentatively pulled back my 'magic carpet' to reveal the cause of the commotion on the now flattened grass. What I was confronted with was, at first, rather disconcerting – a group of smooth, brown, serpentine creatures, their sinuous bodies interwoven as they either fought or frolicked (I couldn't tell which) with each other. Here were incredible animals that I had never before encountered. And there were loads of them.

While I fondly remember this first experience of slow-worms, every subsequent sighting is also something special. For these are neither worms nor snakes, but legless lizards, one of only three species of terrestrial reptile in central Scotland.

Slow-worms can be found above ground between March and October, hibernating in subterranean tunnels outwith this period. Early spring and late summer are good times to find them basking in the sun, though they much prefer hiding under something warm. Females give birth to live young in late summer at which time groups can contain animals of various sizes and shades of grey-brown, depending on their age and sex. Adults can grow up to



50cm long and live for an impressive 15–30 years. Their prey consists mainly of slugs, snails and (slower) worms.

As well as the Aberfoyle area, the nearest ones to Killearn I have seen to date have been in east Loch Lomondside. But I'm sure they are closer than that and perhaps right on our doorstep, simply going undetected.

While I have mainly found them on heathland or at woodland edges, they occupy a range of habitats, including gardens, where they favour the warmth of compost heaps.

Currently they have only partial legal protection, though even this may go in the near future, putting them at increased risk of persecution. So please keep a look out for slow-worms and report any sightings. And be careful where you sunbathe!

MARTIN CULSHAW



Do you need an affordable home ?

Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 600 rented houses and flats. Around 40 of these become available for rent each year. At present we have properties in the following communities:

Aberfoyle	Doone	Killin	Strathyre
Balfron	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheamhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balmaha, Croftamie, Kippen and Drymen. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future. For further information about us and a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

Rural Stirling Housing Association
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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* winter edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 13 November 2021.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 24 September. Contact:
Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 24 September. Please send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or
Email: courier@kcfc.co.uk

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OPEN 7 DAYS
9am - 5pm

Events coming to Edenmill soon

Check out our website and Facebook for more information.

Beer Festival

25th September

Halloween Extravaganza

30th & 31st October

(Children's Events During the Day / Adults in the Evening)

Bonfire Night

5th November

Join our Mailing List for up to date information



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