



Killearn. Courier

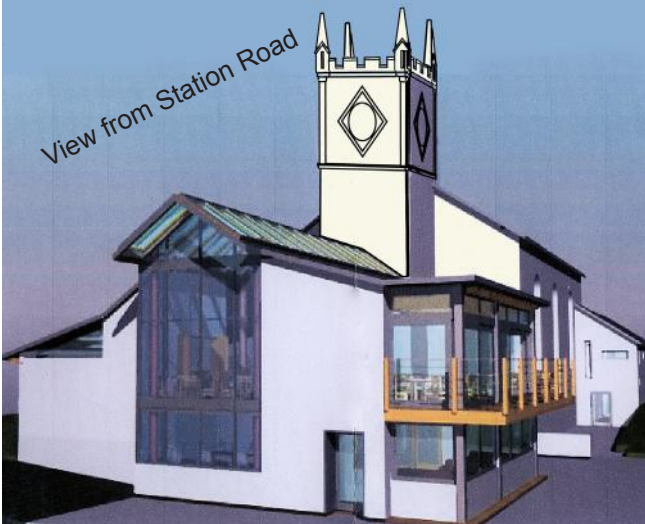
ISSUE 16

SPRING 2010

£1

Grand Designs for Village Hall

See proposed developments on pages 8 & 9



Got a good Photo?



Lake of Menteith Gathering



Lake of Menteith "Iceboat"

We're on the lookout for a suitable photograph to use for the front page of the *Killlearn Courier* next Christmas. Send us your winter scenes and the best one will be used on the front page.

All entries to courier@kfc.co.uk



Sunset Sledging



Greylag Geese in front of the Campsies



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Sledge Race



Frozen Waterfall

Killlearn Courier
published by:



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Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 14 August 2010.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 9 July. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 9 July. Send them to: 2 Elder Road, Killlearn or email to courier@kfc.co.uk.

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of 2010 which I hope finds you anticipating the coming of spring and milder weather. It's not that far away really; already snowdrops are well out with some daffodils and crocus sticking their heads up, all of which makes us feel better. I think we deserve a spell of warmer and drier weather given the winter we've just gone through. Here's to a long hot summer!

This issue has contributions and articles from the usual suspects including our 'nature' piece. The article this time is by Martin Culshaw who has also volunteered to submit a nature article for future issues. Any other volunteers out there? We would particularly like young people to get involved. It would be great to get views from the youth of our village.

We have also featured the current situation regarding the Village Hall Project. This project came about several years ago when it was recognised that there were little or no facilities for our young people nor was there a village 'centre' which could be used for events of all kinds. Thanks to the tremendous amount of work done by the Development Group, the project is now ready to go forward to the community for their views. Details of how and when this will take place are on pages 8 and 9.

When you read about the forthcoming Killearn Hoolie, you will realise that you can look forward to a week of fun and frolics! We, as a community, should support both these events.

Keep your contributions coming in and also letters to the editor, your views on the village, a story or whatever. Let us know if you like the *Courier* in its current format or think should it be changed? Should we be doing things differently or are you happy with things the way they are? Do let us know.

This is, after all, *your* community newspaper.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



19 Mar	PTA: X Factor, Village Hall	7.00-9.30pm
24 Mar	All Killearn Archives, <i>Memories of 2nd World War</i> , Killearn Primary	1.30-3.00pm
25 Mar	Drymen History Society: <i>Aberfoyle Slate Quarry</i> by Louis Stott, Drymen Village Hall	7.45pm
26 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society: <i>Conversations with my Gardener</i> , Balfron Campus	7.30pm
27 Mar	Killearn Tennis Club <i>Open Day</i>	2.00pm
28 Mar	Strathendrick Singers: <i>Spring Concert</i> , Killearn Kirk	7.00pm
31 Mar	Rotary Community Concert by Police Band, Village Hall	7.30pm
7 Apr	Rotary Charity Bridge, Village Hall	7 for 7.30pm
10 Apr	Wee Green Market, Village Hall	10.00am
11 Apr	Strathendrick Cycling Club: cycle on forest tracks from Drymen Cottage to Loch Ard, contact: M Jervis, 660437	
16 Apr	Strathendrick Film Society: <i>Transsiberian</i> , Balfron Campus	7.30pm
20 Apr	Get Reel term starts	
22 Apr	Drymen History Society: <i>The Scottish Aristocracy & the Grand Tour</i> , talk by Joanna Weld-Forester, Drymen Village Hall	7.45pm
23 Apr	Strathendrick Film Society: <i>Hobson's Choice</i> , Balfron Campus	7.30pm
1 May	Wee Green Market and Horticultural Society Display, Village Hall	10.00am
7 May	PTA: <i>Bag2School</i> , Killearn Primary School	8.45-9.15am
8 May	Killearn Tennis Club <i>American Tournament</i>	2.00pm
22 May	Horticultural Society Gardeners Market & Coffee Morning, Village Hall	10am-12noon
1 Jun	Get Reel term ends	
5 Jun	PTA: <i>Duck Race</i> , River Endrick	11.00am
	PTA: <i>BBQ</i> , Primary School	5.00-8.00pm
	Killearn Tennis Club <i>Family BBQ</i>	2.00pm
6 Jun	Killearn Hoolie: <i>Fun Run</i> , contact Louise Nuttall, 551583	11.00am
12 Jun	Killearn Hoolie: <i>Gala Day</i> , The Glebe	12noon-4pm,
	Killearn Hoolie: <i>Evening Ceilidh</i> , The Glebe	7.30pm (by ticket only)
7 Aug	Wee Green Market and Horticultural Society Display, Village Hall	10.00am
14 Aug	Rotary: <i>AMAM Golf</i> , Balfron Golf Course, entry forms on Rotary website from mid-June, contact J Anderson, 550888	
28 Aug	Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Show, Village Hall, <i>For schedule contact Glenda Asquith on 550142</i>	2.00-4.30pm

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



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Hector McKinnon 1925 – 2009



Hector was born in 1925 at Merksworth Farm, Paisley, where his father was a farm worker after serving as a soldier in the First World War. In 1936 he moved with his parents and three brothers to Lettre Farm in Killearn.

Completing his education at Balfour High School, he earned some pennies as a butcher's boy delivering meat for Mr Paton. But the farming or shop life was not for Hector; being good with mechanical things, he served an apprenticeship as a mechanic with Alexander's Buses at their Milngavie garage. In 1959, he moved on to Glasgow Corporation Transport, retiring as a Supervisor in 1985. Hector and Cathie married in 1961. They have a son Derek, daughter Margaret and granddaughter Susan, of whom Hector was very proud.

Always a keen gardener, he shared a love of growing things with Cathie, their garden being a source of pleasure to all who passed, which was recognised when it was one of the village gardens open in the *Scottish Gardens Scheme*. Hector was an active member and elder of Killearn Kirk.

PW

Jessie MacAdam 1908 - 2010



Abbeyfield House lost its oldest resident with the death in February of Jessie MacAdam in her 102nd year. She had come from Milngavie where she lived for 25 years, to live in Abbeyfield to be near to her daughter, Sheila Ptolomey. Though at first doubtful whether she was really ready for semi-sheltered accommodation, she quickly settled and was, for six years, a much loved and lively member of the Abbeyfield community, ready to enjoy all the social events on offer and greatly appreciating the visits to Killearn Primary School and the little concerts given by school and nursery children who came to perform at Abbeyfield.

Jessie remained alert, elegant and interested in all that was going on around her to the end of her long life, which had been one of loving and continuous service to her family, her church and the community in which she lived. She had cared for her own mother at the end of her life until her death at the age of 100. She took great pride and joy in her own family – daughter, Sheila, son-in-law Jim and her grandchildren Fiona and Grant.

BP

John Marshall 1923 – 2010

John Marshall who died in February was a country man all his life. He came to the village in 1928 with his family and lived at Baptiston Farm and attended Killearn Primary School and Balfour High School. After the early death of his father when John was only 11, he helped his uncle, Jimmy Marshall, run the farm. In 1974 he went to live in Cameron Cottage where he spent the remainder of his life until his final weeks in Blanefield Care Home. He walked daily to fetch his paper and provisions from the shop at the smithy but when this closed, the kindness of neighbours supplied his daily needs. Though he rarely socialised he appreciated visits from cousins and his close neighbours who knew and respected him as a man of great thoughtfulness and humility and a good friend and neighbour.

BP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir,

I don't know if anyone has noticed that, over the last two or three months, dog fouling has got worse. There is hardly a pavement anywhere in Killearn that is free from this hazard.

Not only is it awful when you get it on your shoes, but, as has been well documented, it can be very dangerous to children in particular, causing all sorts of diseases. Also, to leave this mess lying about is against the law and owners can be fined £100. Can I ask through your paper, that dog owners do clean up and make Killearn a safer and nicer place to walk around.

Name and address supplied.

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you could include the following warning to the residents of the Village in the next edition of your excellent newspaper.

About 4am on a cold Thursday morning in February, the Killearn Moron reappeared; your readers will know the one, it is usually associated with throwing eggs/apples at old ladies' windows. On this occasion, the creature pushed over all the wheelie bins in our street thus emptying the household waste onto the footpath and roadway where it was further spread by crows prior to the arrival of the refuse collectors.

The creature is easily recognised by its Neanderthal type appearance associated with its knuckles trailing on the ground and seems to manifest itself only during the school holidays. Anyone seeing this creature in action should not approach it, but instead call the local police or nearest zoo.

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TUTOR TRAINING WEEKEND – *GET REEL*

On a cold but bright Friday night in February, Abi Lightbody and myself, set off for a tutor training weekend run by Feisean nan Gaidheal at the Gaelic college on Skye – *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig*.

We went along to the weekend not knowing what to expect and arrived at registration on the Saturday morning with some fear and trepidation. However, that soon disappeared when we met the main tutors running our course, Andy Thorburn and Val Bryan. They very quickly put us at our ease which in turn allowed us to get the most out of the weekend.

Val and Andy soon had us deep in discussion on teaching techniques, preparation and the many practical issues that arise when tutoring classes. We also covered some great ice-breaking techniques, warm ups, and musical games. One of these had us all on the floor passing drumsticks to each other! Great fun and very useful – honest!

We also attended a very enlightening session on child protection given by Susan and a session giving us a taster of the Gaelic language with Gilleasbuig.

Day one ended with dinner and a great music session held in the old barn which went into the wee small hours!

Day two was a practical day of music and song when we were split into groups and had to teach each other new material, mainly in the tradition of learning and teaching by ear, which we then had to come back and perform in the afternoon.

The weekend ended with the issue of some very welcome and well earned certificates and thanks to the team.

I know Abi and I have benefited greatly by completing this course. We are returning to *Get Reel* with new skills, lots of information and techniques to make our classes even

more enjoyable and productive. This training follows on from training already completed with music leaders in the Stirling area.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is a wonderful resource on Skye. The setting is stunning and we were very lucky to have a beautiful, cold, but clear weekend of weather to enjoy it. We received a lovely warm welcome and brilliant co-ordination from Iona MacDonald for Feisean nan Gaidheal and excellent tuition from Andy, Val, Gilleasbuig and Susan.

We thank them all very much for organising such a great course and making us so welcome on it. We look forward to going back next year to complete the next level!

Get Reel welcomes new members. If you are out there and have always wanted to learn how to play the fiddle, guitar or whistle, whether you

be child or adult – come and see us. It's never too late to start and it's great fun trying! Classes are run on Tuesday evenings during term time at Balforn High School. We work with experienced tutors, including Ruaridh Campbell of Angus Lyon and Ruaridh Campbell fame, Mike Vass of Malinky fame and Barry Reid of Treacherous Orchestra fame, as well as our trainee tutors. Teaching is normally by ear, but music will be available if you need it. *Contact Sara Bell on 01360 550770 or Suzanne Hendry 01360 551686 for details.*

Kath Muldowney



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BELL – RIDDELL



Bill and Linda Riddell with their son Chris, who married Lynne Bell on 18 July 2009 at Harburn House, West Calder.

Finding a New Minister for Killearn Kirk – how are we progressing?

Since Rev Philip Malloch retired eight months ago, a nominating committee has been elected from the congregation to advertise the position and consider applications and recommendations for the vacancy. The committee are now engaged in visiting the churches of prospective ministers to hear them conducting public worship. We are also taking the opportunity of welcoming them informally to the village, visiting the church, halls and manse and generally getting to know them. This process takes time, and unlike in business, there is no closing date. As a committee, it is our responsibility to find and recommend to the congregation a sole nominee for the position of minister in Killearn.

During this time Killearn Kirk are fortunate in having Rev David Munro as our locum minister. He is preaching at the regular Sunday services and looking after the pastoral needs of the congregation and parish until a new minister is called.

*Carole Young
Clerk to the Nominating Committee*



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All Killearn Archives

Memories of the Second World War

The Group will hold a combined exhibition and memories of the war with Primary 7 of Killearn Primary School.

**Meet at the School
Wednesday, 24 March
1.30 - 3.00 pm**



Come along and share your memories with the pupils of Primary 7 and help them with their project.

Welcome David and Nanami



Nanami David
Audrey Aidan

We welcome David and Nanami Grevemberg and their children Aidan and Audrey to Killearn. Don't be fooled by the German surname. Although David comes to us from Bonn, he is American, from the deep south, the land of Mardi Gras, New Orleans. Nanami is also from the States, but they both seem to have spent much of their life globe-trotting. David has landed the task of making sure that Glasgow has the most wonderful Commonwealth Games ever, with a lasting legacy that the city can be proud of. How did an

American from Germany land the job of Director of Operations of the Commonwealth Games? David has extensive experience in sports of all kinds and sports management in particular. Beginning his education with a wrestling scholarship at Springfield College, he has had many different sporting careers, finally ending in Bonn as Executive Director of Sport at the International Paralympic Committee. In fact, David was their first professional appointment, serving the movement for over 10 years. In many ways he has been responsible for the development of the Paralympics from a relatively minor event to the major competition it is today. When interviewing David, his enthusiasm for sport as a way of empowering people who have become disenfranchised by their circumstances, whether poverty, disability, ethnicity, whatever, was positively infectious. If he brings the same passion to the Commonwealth Games, their success is ensured. 2014 is a year to look forward to.

David does not underestimate the task ahead of him, knowing he has to bring the games in on time and on budget. However, he intends to put the athlete first and focus on the sports. And when the athletes have all gone home, there has to be a lasting legacy, leaving sporting opportunities for the citizens of Glasgow and its environs.

Both David and Nanami independently said how glad they are that they chanced upon Killearn. David says he enjoys the contrast between working in the city and returning to the sanctuary and solitude (*his words*) of Killearn,

and as an example to all who commute, he travels to the office on the Number 10 bus! Aidan has settled in well in Primary 3 after an intensive course to counter the differences between German and Scottish schooling, and Audrey really enjoys her nursery school here. The only problem will be leaving when the games are over. They have found the villagers really welcoming and have been surprised at how diverse it is. When asked if he had thought about the future, he said he had enough to think about for the present, but he had considered returning to coaching, having coached inner city kids in the States. However, I guess he has his sights set on the International Olympic Committee. *PW*

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KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL

KCFC Village Hall Development Group (VHDG) is now pleased to be able to illustrate our response to the community's requirements and vision for Killearn's Village Hall. In addition to the need for the VHDG to reflect the wishes of the community it was also important to remain within striking distance of the agreed budget of £1 million and so far, this has been achieved.

Brian Simmers

After two years' research of village hall and youth club developments in Scotland, analyses of almost 500 questionnaires returned from community households and our two schools, discussions with a range of involved and interested parties in the village and numerous meetings with the architects, McEachern MacDuff, VHDG is now ready to present its plan to the community.

There were five main areas which were highlighted in the research, analyses and discussions and in which it was felt that the Village Hall was neither satisfying the needs of the community nor of the quality required in the 21st century. The VHDG and Alisdair MacDuff, the architect, believe we have responded to each of these as described below.

- **The Hall has a location with a superb view which cannot currently be seen from within**

It is proposed that the floor of the main hall is raised to the level of the present stage which then opens up the magnificent view across the Glebe to the west. This level of floor has been continued throughout the building, including the existing meeting room and enlarged kitchen at the south end, and the new build extension (illustrated) for the reception/coffee/lounge area. This raising of the floor creates an additional area below the main hall floor and extension which is able to house additional storage and youth space.

- **The Hall offered a 20th-century venue for major community events, activities and weddings with no reception area and inadequate kitchen facilities**

The new extension will introduce an extremely attractive reception area with a fantastic view and the kitchen will be enlarged and professionally fitted out to cater for larger community events and weddings.

- **There is a serious lack of facilities for young people**

Youth space will be created below the new reception area and raised main hall floor which will provide a 'chill out' area and space for Wii games, pool table(s), computer room, large TV screen for films and other purposes, music system and relevant lighting which will all be agreed with the youth committee. When vacant this area can also be used for meetings.

- **There were limited areas for formal and informal meetings and archive displays**

The existing meeting room, which doubles as a changing room for stage performances, will be retained (at the raised level) and the new reception and youth space will provide additional meeting areas. The reception/coffee/lounge area has been designed to cater for each of these requirements and this, together with the foyer, will have several display areas for the Killearn archives, as well as a dedicated computer for archive storage.

- **There was insufficient storage for all Hall users**

The area below the raised main hall floor and extension will house additional storage. Storage space will also be created at the back of the stage for the large tables and chairs. As the stage will be at the same height as the new floor level, demountable staging will be provided, to be stored either behind the stage curtaining or in the substantial storage area below the new main hall floor. The tower will have access from the main hall with limited easily accessible storage at main hall floor level.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The renovations do not affect any of the hall's existing activities, including badminton, as it is proposed that the balcony is removed.

The Village Hall is a category B listed building. The architect has had an initial meeting with Historic Scotland and Stirling Planners who have required a design which allows a clear view of the original building, including the tower, and this is the reason for the glazed areas on three sides and the roof of the extension.

Stirling Council, the owner of the Village Hall, has been asked to extend the lease of the hall for a period of 50 years. The Council has been presented with our initial proposals for the hall and has asked for clarification on a number of points, including confirmation of approval of the draft plans by the community and an indication of the likelihood of availability of sufficient funding.



Proposed East Elevation

Main Entrance

Presentations will be made to Killearn and the wider community at meetings on the dates below and we are hoping for a very full attendance of all ages. It is essential that KCFC know that these proposals have the full support of the village in order to proceed. At the meetings full plans and a model of the extended building will be on show to ensure a clear understanding of the proposed development. By that time we also expect to have been given an indication of the level of support which

we hope is available from government and other funding sources.

VHDG and KCFC hope that we have reflected the vision of the Killearn community and we request all households and school pupils to attend the proposed community meetings in order to hear the full detail of the Village Hall development and have the opportunity of asking questions on any aspect which concerns you.

The Village Hall is a focal point in Killearn and could and should be used by a very large portion of our community and the surrounding areas for a wide range of activities and interests.

We hope that our proposed plans meet with your approval and provide a 21st century facility to more than match your requirements.

This is your Village Hall and we want you to be proud of it.



Proposed West Elevation

PRESENTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL:

SUNDAY, 28 MARCH AT 3.00pm (TEA & BISCUITS WILL BE SERVED)
THURSDAY, 1 APRIL AT 8.00pm (WINE & NIBBLES WILL BE SERVED)

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND,
INCLUDING NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES**

***ALL AGES ARE WELCOME, PARTICULARLY SCHOOL
PUPILS AND YOUNG PEOPLE, SO DO COME ALONG***

***Prize draw to win £50 of Marks & Spencer vouchers for returned
questionnaire will take place at each presentation***

Killearn Glen Countryside Action Day 10 April 2010

The Killearn Glen is popular with local residents and visitors and is included in the 'Paths around Killearn' map guide published on behalf of Killearn Community Futures Company by the Paths Group. The Glen is administered on behalf of the community by Stirling Council and modest, non-intrusive maintenance work is carried out from time to time by the Council's Countryside rangers, sometimes assisted by local volunteers.



Regular Glen visitors will be aware that the combination of popular use and the very wet weather has resulted in many problems. Paths are extremely muddy and wet and some parts have been reduced to a quagmire.

On Saturday 10 April volunteers will be involved in carrying out remedial work under the direction and guidance of the Stirling Council Ranger Service. To be effective it is important that as many people as possible turn up for duty on the day. There is a lot to be done! This is a day when all the family can be involved since work will be allocated according to age and ability. Young children will also be able to participate in organised activities, separate from the working groups and under adult supervision which will allow them to have fun and learn about the Glen and the plants and animals it contains.

Put the date in your diary and become involved in caring for and improving an important place in Killearn's local environment. More information will be advertised in the weeks before 10 April.

*Norman McNab
Killearn Paths Group*

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Strathendrick Classic Car Club

With the snow away, thoughts are turning to getting our cars, which have been hibernating in the garage, back on the road and planning summer outings. The first big run for many of us will be the Strathendrick Rotary Classic car tour on 25 April. This non-competitive event is great fun and well supported by our members. In a change to the usual programme, this year instead of a local navigation run in May, our main event will be a simple tour on 22 May, which will end up in Boat of Garten for the night. This is a fairly long run and will be testing for the cars, particularly the older ones. The Boat Hotel is offering good rates for the overnight stay, if booked in advance, and anyone who wishes to join the run will have to be quick or risk not getting a room. A further, more competitive, run is scheduled for 20 June. We take turns to organise this run with the Helensburgh club, and this year is our turn. Details will be published as soon as possible.

Despite the cars being locked away, the Club has been active. On 22 October we visited the Transport Museum in Glasgow, to have a last look before it moves to its new home on Clydeside. We hope to have a speaker from the museum at our meeting on 17 March. On 11 November, Graham Harper talked about the Argyle engines, which were produced for a time at the 'torpedo factory' in Alexandria. Our Ladies Night on 9 December was held in Buchanan Castle Golf Club, where a fine meal was followed by a hotly-contested quiz. It is amazing what obscure facts people remember! Speaker meetings were held in January and February, the subjects being the Italian car industry and historic Jaguar cars. On 28 April we have a short evening run, followed by the AGM at The Beech Tree Inn.

Anyone interested in cars is welcome to join the club – no car necessary. Please contact our secretary, Phillip Pain (55075).

R J Livingstone, Chairman

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Strathendrick Classic Car Club

Jaguar E-Type, Series III, V12, 5.3L FHC (1971 – 1975)



After the success of the earlier E-Types the eagerly-awaited launch of the Mark III took place at Palm Beach in March 1971. The event was attended by Sir William Lyons, co-founder of Jaguar Cars, and Harry Mundy, one of developers of the new V12 engine that gave Jaguar the edge over American muscle cars, both in terms of power and handling.

The 5.3 litre V12 engine was a much larger unit than Jaguar had ever manufactured before. The company spent £3 million (a lot of money in the 60s) upgrading its Radford factory to handle the demand for these larger engine units.

Jaguar considered using the fuel injection system being developed by Brico, but instead decided to use the traditional carburettor arrangement. The 12 cylinders were divided into sets of three with each set fed by a Zenith-Stromberg carburettor.

Technologically, Jaguar was one of the most advanced car-makers in the world and for the first time installed an electronic distributor system on a production car. The new system was a major innovation because it eliminated the need for unreliable 'points' distribution.

The Series III E-Type was a very different animal from the original 3.8 litre engine cars. The addition of the wonderfully powerful V12 engine dramatically increased performance and prestige to Jaguar's flagship sports car. Technically the 60° V12 engine produces 272 bhp. Although similar-sized engines in modern cars produce much more, three decades ago it was one of the most efficient engines in production. Perfectly balanced, torsion deflections were eliminated by the provision of a damper of steel and rubber bolted to the front of the crankshaft.



The styling of the Mark III was maintained in line with its predecessors but discrete and appealing additions were made to the car. A large front air intake with cross-slatted front grill was added, giving the car a more aggressive stance on the road. In addition, an air scoop was fitted underneath the intake to increase ventilation throughout the car. The wheel arches were flared, further enhancing its curves and a badge on the rear proclaimed it to be the V12.

Due to the additional speed and power, the braking system was upgraded with disc brakes fitted to all four wheels and power-assisted steering fitted as standard.

A total of 15,000 Jaguar V12s were built in the UK. A few remained here but the majority were shipped to the USA and only one-fifth of the cars ever made remained in Europe. Today these V12 E-Types are highly sought after and are cherished and loved by classic car enthusiasts world-wide. Their character is one of refined performance, beauty, technical innovation of the time and they contributed massively to placing Britain at the top of global motoring innovation.

Philip Pain

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Cold weather – Canadian style



You might have thought that it was pretty chilly back at Christmas and New Year but of course for many other parts of the world our sub-zero temperatures would be quite normal, even relatively warm. Stephanie and Peter Harper and their three children Isla, Rory, and Angus, then 9, 7 and 6 spent nearly four months last winter in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The *Courier* asked Stephanie how Calgary residents deal with the cold weather...

“We arrived in mid-December in the middle of a massive snowstorm. It was minus 27°C. Up to two feet of snow can fall in one day, so the roads totally disappear. The ‘Stop’ signs have arrows pointing down because, of course, you can’t see the road markings. Yet people carry on as normal, using winter tyres and special antifreeze that is effective in temperatures down to minus 25°C. Journeys just take a bit longer than usual. Babies travel in a sort of ‘chariot’, bundled up in blankets, like you see being pulled by bikes in this country. Little dogs all have coats and shoes to stop ice balls from forming on their paws. Car washes are very

different to here – you drive into a room which is then sealed otherwise everything would freeze up.

There are underground ‘parkades’ under apartments and shopping malls, so some people can avoid going outside at all. People plug their cars into electrical points in car parks or run cables across the pavement to their house, otherwise the inside of the car is so cold you can’t even hold the steering wheel without gloves.

The roads are ploughed but not treated, but the snow is so dry and crisp that it is not as slippery as ours. The pavements are also ploughed, although homeowners are responsible for the bit outside their house and things like mail is not delivered if you don’t clear it. The stairs over a bridge that we had to cross every morning had antifreeze put on them early every day. Falling and ending up in A&E just didn’t seem to be a problem and potholes were repaired as soon as they appeared.

Everything stays open, including schools and even the zoos, which have special enclosures. The children have to wear full snow gear and thick boots to school and are sent outside at playtime unless the temperature falls below minus 20°C. The weather is often so gloriously sunny without being windy or damp that it doesn’t feel as cold.

We found there were indicators of how cold it was, such as the inside of your nose hurting when it got below about minus 30° and your hair and eyelashes would freeze. We had our coldest walk to school in about minus 42°!

We were living in a very warm apartment so sometimes it was difficult to judge the weather outside. Often the ice was so thick on the window we couldn’t see out properly. We used a hairdryer to unfreeze the French windows and open them to let some fresh air in – and in would come a big puff of cloud, which was the cold air condensing. People have dual timers for the heating in their houses so that the house can be kept at a lower temperature at night and when they are out, and at a higher temperature at other times.

A dedicated weather channel covers the whole of Canada. Unlike the UK, the weather system is very stable so usually the whole of Alberta has similar conditions and the forecast is much more accurate. The warm Chinook winds coming over from the Rockies are a peculiar phenomenon in Calgary – the temperature can rise as much as



Snowplough on Highway One

20°C in one day. We once saw a car in a puddle of melted snow and when the temperature dropped again, it was left completely stuck in the thick ice!

We went to a fireworks display on New Year’s Eve. It was only minus 10°C! Nothing was cancelled because of the cold. Really it was just a case of dressing appropriately and keeping moving – you’d find yourself walking the distance rather than waiting five or 10 minutes at the bus stop. That is how the residents of Calgary can continue life as normal.”

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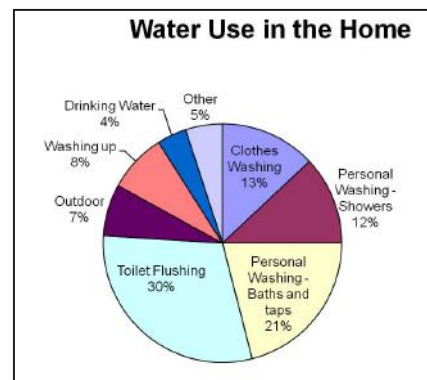
Think Greener – Save Water

Just after the New Year big freeze, many residents of Killearn found out what it is like to live without a supply of water from the tap. No showers, toilets that won't flush, all drinking and water for cooking from a supply of bottles. In many third-world countries bottled water would be a luxury; it would be a long walk to river or well. Even if you were one of the lucky ones, you could not fail to notice the pallets of bottled water outside Spar and other strategic points round the village. Thankfully the drought only lasted a day or two at most, a little longer for some less fortunate, as Scottish Water worked round the clock to restore the supply. However it gave an insight of what the world could look like if the predicted water shortage comes about. Not a very comfortable one.

For this reason Scottish water has inaugurated a Save Water campaign, in which they promise to reduce leaks, and in return they expect us to do our bit. Jane McKenzie, Scottish Water's Regional Communities Manager, said: "We're encouraging people to look at their water use throughout their home, garden and workplace and asking them to do one thing each day that will save water and energy. Even if savings are only small, every drop counts. The pie chart shows the average use of water in the home. Notice that nearly a third is used in flushing the toilet and nearly a half keeping our clothes and body clean, only 4% for drinking.

Here is their advice:

- Only fill a kettle to whatever level you need – this also saves energy.
- Don't use your washing machine until you have a full load. The average wash uses about 50 litres of water and washing clothes accounts for 13% of the water you use at home. If you are thinking of treating yourself to a new washing machine then check out both the energy and water efficiency ratings.
- When washing the dishes fill a sink or basin with water. Modern dishwashers can use as little as 15 litres of water per cycle, where hand washing can use up to 63 litres of water per session, and this increases if you rinse your dishes under a running tap.
- Avoid using a hose wherever possible – use a watering can for the garden and buckets of water for washing the car.
- Install a garden water-butt to collect rain water.
- Showering accounts for around 12% of the water we use at home, taking a shower instead of a bath can help save up to 400 litres of water a week.



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Killearn Primary School News

Burns Celebrations

Our annual Burns Concert took place on Friday 29 January when an invited audience of senior members of our community thoroughly enjoyed this lively celebration of Scottish poetry and music. Primary 6/7 brought our concert to a close with their 'Burns Supper' presentation. The Burns Coffee Morning, organised by the PTA, was an opportunity for others in the village to enjoy the children's performances. Even the youngest members of our school in the Nursery marked this special time of year with their own event.



Bird Buddies - Reported by Primary 3

It is our responsibility to look after the birds. We know it is very important to feed them at this time of year because they can't find much food themselves. Mrs Pairman, our school secretary kindly donated a bird table and we make sure it is filled regularly. We can see it from our classroom window and have been learning to identify the birds that come to it. This helped us when we took part in the Big Bird Watch on Wednesday 27 January. We hung bird feeders around the playground and with the help of Innes' and Finlay's mums we counted how many of each kind came to feed. Some of the birds we saw were crows, chaffinches, robins and blue tits. We sent the results to the RSPB. It was great fun!

Some of us also did the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch at home. This was a very important national event as the RSPB wanted to know how the very cold winter has affected the bird population.

A Community of Writers

Developing our children's interest and skills as writers has been a major focus over the past year. As part of this initiative we were delighted to welcome Anne Johnstone, Chief Leader Writer for The Herald, to school on Monday 1 February.

She shared her experiences of writing for a newspaper with the children at a special Primary 4-6 Assembly and gave them the opportunity to question her about her work. This was also a chance for some of our children to share their recent Christmas publications with a professional writer. Our Nursery children are also budding authors and illustrators, working collaboratively to create their own stories.

Hats On For Haiti - by Erin Sanderson and Nick North

Killearn Primary thought we should do our bit to help the people of Haiti who have just been struck by a terrible earthquake. The Pupil Council came up with the idea of Hats on for Haiti appeal. Everyone in the school was invited to wear a hat and bring a donation. The appeal was very well supported and total raised so far is £538 and still counting.

Brainiacs

Mrs Tempest is currently running a lunchtime General Knowledge Club in the school for Primary 6 and 7 pupils. One of the events they have been preparing for, The Euro Quiz, took place in the Council Chambers in Viewforth on Friday 5 February. These Primary 6 children were excellent ambassadors for our school at this event and achieved third place. Very soon a team of Primary 7 children will be taking part in the Rotary Quiz. We will let you know how they get on in the next issue of the Killearn Courier.

Stirling Schools Cross-Country Event

On Tuesday 2 February a group of children from Primary 6/7 took part in the Stirling Schools Cross-Country Event at Stirling Rugby Club. In spite of the very wintry weather they all enjoyed the experience and the teacher who accompanied them, Mrs Sandra McLean, was delighted with their performances. There is a strong possibility that some of those who took part will be invited to participate in the Forth Valley Schools Cross-Country Championship in March.



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Killlearn Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative Experiment

A group of gardeners in the village, new and experienced, have joined together to form an experimental cooperative.

The main objective is to create a network of people who grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens and who wish to share resources, knowledge and experience in an informal and fun way.

The group has agreed to contribute at least one crop of their choice to the cooperative. The crop planner for this year has 15 different items including potatoes, spinach, pak choi, runner beans, leeks, tomatoes, herbs and courgettes. Everyone is already looking forward to the planned harvest festival in the autumn.

The experiment started in December 2009 when growing fruit and vegetables was probably not high on most people's agenda but much has already been achieved:

- There was general agreement that raised beds were one of the best ways of growing salad and vegetable crops, so there was an enthusiastic welcome when a number of the group went round each others' gardens and helped to build beds for those who wished them. The photographs show what can be achieved in an afternoon. Next will come the barrowing of around 20 metric tonnes of soil and compost to fill them! The bulk ordering of materials as a group helped to keep the costs down.
- Even the most experienced growers have felt they have already learned something new from others in the group while novice gardeners have been encouraged to grow vegetables for the first time.
- There has been a landshare arrangement organized, where one keen grower who did not have a suitable garden for growing vegetables has been linked with another gardener who has too much.



The group has been meeting once a month and it was agreed for this year to limit the experiment to 15 plots as there is much to learn about running a grower's cooperative.

It is hoped that the group will be able to report back later in the year on how the experiment has progressed.

Sandra Burt



Keep Scotland Beautiful and Rotary International are searching for enthusiastic young photographers for the Rotary Young Photographer Competition 2010. The theme for the 2010 competition is '*Are we waste aware?*', and judges

will be looking for imagination and style, as well as technical merit, content and composition.

Youngsters in Scotland can enter in one of three age group categories: under 12 years, 12-15 years and 15-18 years. Photographs can be digital or film, colour or black & white and must be submitted by Thursday 1 April 2010.

Competition rules and entry forms can be found on the Rotary District 1020 website:

www.rotary1020.org.uk/youngphotographer.asp

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Fun Runners



Killearn Gala Day 2003



Classic Cars in Beech Drive



Pipe Band in Main St 1995



Killearn Gala Day 2000

This June will witness the first Gala Day of its kind to be held in Killearn in 7 years! Our aim is to bring together as many local villagers and visitors as possible in a celebration of community spirit; and what better way to do this than having a good old-fashioned Gala – with maybe just a few modern twists along the way?

The Killearn Hoolie will take place from Sunday 6 June until Saturday 12 June, with many local organisations staging their own events throughout the week; including concerts, displays, sporting tournaments, a family treasure hunt and much more besides.

The week will kick off on Sunday 6 June with a 10k Fun Run.

The Hoolie 10k Fun Run Sunday 6 June 2010

Why don't you blow the dust off your trainers and get training for The Killearn Hoolie 10k & Fun Run . . . ?

This event is designed for everyone from Killearn, and beyond, to encourage participants of all abilities. For the walkers and joggers amongst us the 5k route is ideal but for the more experienced and competitive runners the 10k is more of a challenge!

The Run will begin at 11.00am in the car park to the rear of The Black Bull where entrants will be officially piped to the starting line. The route will then take you past some of the most beautiful local scenery along the water track towards Dumgoyne.

For the younger runners there will be a 2k event starting at 10.00am.

You can enter on line at www.killearnhoolie.com or contact Louise Nuttall on 551583 for more information.

If you would like to enter a team into the Tug of War please contact Grace Shaw at:
shawgrace@aol.com

Please remember to keep checking the website for further updates and information at www.killearnhoolie.com

Sponsorship & Help

All great events need support to make them happen – so how can you help?

You could join the growing number of individuals and companies who have already pledged financial support. Our thanks at this early stage goes to Stuart and the staff at Glengoyne Distillery, Luci at Events Decor, Bill & Iain at The Old Mill Inn and Craig at Breeze Creative, with more and more joining daily. For further information on how you can get involved please contact Tim Brown on 07918 941386 or visit the Hoolie website.

Do you run or are you involved in an organisation within the village? Are you a small group or small business? Maybe your organisation would like to be part of The Hoolie by holding an event during the week or perhaps you could offer your services in kind. So whether it be stewarding of the fun run, helping on a stall, or donating a bottle or a prize for the grand raffle, everyone can help in their own way. For further information on how you can get involved please contact:

*Jennifer Brown on 550681
or Joanna Donaldson on 550536.*

Killarn Hoolie

hoolie.com 6th-12th June 2010



The Hoolie Gala Day Saturday 12 June 2010

A full programme of events has been lined up for the day on The Glebe. In keeping with tradition, the day will kick off with a procession up Main Street lead by the Strathendrick Pipe Band and our local Classic Cars, with the Gala King and Queen on hand to help with royal duties! At 12 noon the Gala will officially open and the fun will begin.

A variety of entertainment for all ages will be on offer: the Main Marquee will host The Wee Green Market and food demonstrations by Tom Lewis from the award-winning Monachyle Mhor Hotel, with tasting and blending sessions from Glengoyne Distillery. On the day you will be able to purchase a specially labelled bottle of Glengoyne 'Hoolie Whisky', alongside the 'Hoolie Burger' – a recipe created by a local winning chef and made on the day by Edenmill Farm.

Traditional cream teas will be served during the day and you will be able to sit back, relax and enjoy a range of activities which will be in the main ring including:

- Highland Dancing
- Strathendrick Pipe Band
- Tug Of War
- Get Reel
- Falconry Demonstration

Also not to be missed is the 'off-road bike display', bouncy castle, face painting, beat the goalie, nail bar, bottle stall, retro sweets, art tent, Tombola, Beer Tent, Top Gear challenge, soft-play area for under 5s, hook-a-duck, play your cards right, wellie throwing, puppet making, plants & vegetables, to name but a few. So as you will see there is something for everyone!

The Hoolie: The Final Fling Saturday 12 June 7.30pm – 12.30am

The week long celebrations will finish with a fabulous finale: The Hoolie: The Final Fling.

A unique gathering of all the 'Casual Kilted Gents and Bonnie Lassies' to enjoy the ultimate village party on The Glebe. The evening will offer a fantastic finish to the Hoolie week as we party into the wee small hours enjoying great company, fantastic contemporary and traditional Celtic music, with dancing, The Old Mill bar and a superb supper.

Folk will meet for canapés and cocktails and enjoy the melodic sounds of singer/songwriter Catherine O'Halloran, followed by some traditional ceilidh music and culminating in some more contemporary entertainment, as the evening draws to a close.

The must-have tickets cost £20 per person, including a stand-up supper, and are available on a first-come-



Singer/Songwriter Catherine O'Halloran



Contemporary Celtic Music

first-served basis from Wednesday 31st March. Please note tickets are limited to six per application.

To purchase your tickets for the event please complete the form below.

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Probus Club of Strathendrick

The Probus Club of Strathendrick is celebrating its Silver Jubilee in 2010. The Club is based in the village and meets regularly in the Church Hall.

Following a meeting of like-minded gentlemen, the Club was established in December 1985 with the inaugural meeting on 16 January 1986. The catchment area is within a radius of around 15 miles from Killearn and the current membership is nearly 90, with members attending from as far away as Milngavie and Bearsden. In late 1991, such was the demand for membership that the Committee of Strathendrick Probus was instrumental in setting up the Lomond Probus Club, which continues to operate in Drymen.

In addition to twice-monthly meetings, which have a variety of excellent speakers, there is an active golf section playing club competitions and matches against other local Probus Clubs. Add to this social outings, an Annual Dinner and a Christmas Pie and Wine Party, and you have a successful recipe for



meeting friends old and new while also enjoying the topics raised by the speakers.

During the summer months, when there are no formal meetings, a number of members meet on the appropriate days for coffee and a chat in a local hotel.

The photograph shows some of the members, fronted by current President Roy Burdon enjoying the traditional tea and biscuits served prior to the meetings.

If you are interested and want to know more about Probus:

contact any member or the Secretary, Russell Kirk, on 550260.



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Killearn Community Futures Company

KCFC is the umbrella body which can make your ideas a reality.

We continue to support a healthy cross-section of community projects and each year brings new surprises in the way of projects. We continue to hope for ideas from our young people and I feel that 2010 is the year that this will happen.

Amidst the doom and gloom there is opportunity. The good news is something called 'Community Empowerment'. Now that you've heard it, you'll begin to hear it again. National Rural Network websites have been put in place all over Europe. This is so that we can all share ideas and help to develop our rural economies. To find out more visit www.ruralgateway.com It's full of information particularly about projects; it is really worth a look by everyone.

Congratulations to enterprising former Killearn Primary pupil Scarlett McQuillan, the first young person to come and sell produce at the Wee Green Market. Last summer she shared a stall and sold her own homegrown vegetables and at Christmas her homemade jewellery.

If there are any more budding entrepreneurs out there, let's be hearing from you! It's easy, just

phone: 551060 or email: daye@carbethhomefarm.co.uk

Daye Tucker. Convenor KCFC

KCC Eco Meeting in May

How 'green' are you? What is your carbon footprint? Do you always recycle or just throw away? If we were to ask these questions of the whole village, what sort of picture would we get of our contribution as a village to the welfare of our environment and our use of the world's resources?

Killearn Community Council is planning a Special Meeting in May when we hope to turn the spotlight on Eco issues. It will provide an exhibition of information, speakers on a range of subjects, time for questions and answers, finding out, thinking of future action. We'd like to ask our local businesses to come and tell us how eco-friendly they are. We'd like to hear your ideas of what can be done to help our village meet the needs of our environment.

Watch the notice board or website (www.killearncc.org.uk) for the date and if you have an eco subject you would like aired or explored, please contact KCC to get it put on the agenda. Then please come to the meeting. BP

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Killearn Community Council is again promoting the National Spring Clean during April and we encourage village organisations to sign up to help clean up our village. Tabards, gloves and litter picker sticks will be provided. Last year a number of youth organisations and two classes from the primary school took part in this much appreciated service to our community and were given thanks and a certificate from KCC. It would be marvellous if this could be repeated this year. Tidying up our village can be a fun activity when done in a group. You can choose a date convenient to you for your Village Spring Clean. Contact KCC if you and your organisation would like to help and we'll link you into the National Campaign. We look forward to hearing from you.

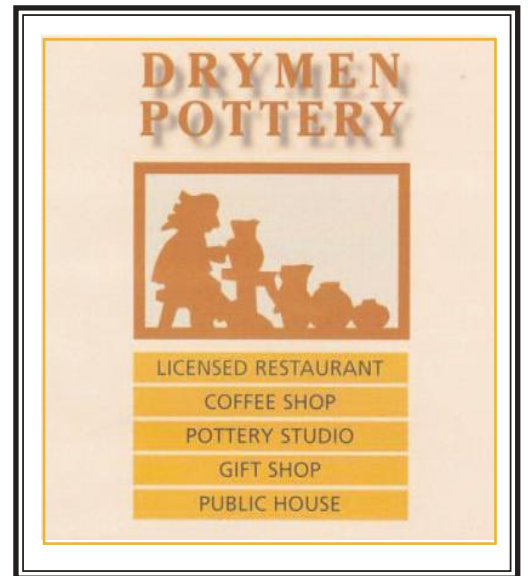
Watch the notice board or website (www.killearncc.org.uk)

Exhibition of Model Toys, Paintings

In December 2009 a few locals put on an interesting display of model making in the front restaurant of the Drymen Pottery. The display was made up of flying aircraft models, sailing ship models and a working train set layout, including various types of steam trains, tunnel, village. The show also had working radio-controlled pond boats and yachts, together with a third-scale Series 1 electric Land Rover. The train layout was of particular interest not only to the younger visitors but also the dads and granddads. There was too little space to allow the Land Rover to be driven, however the children who could sit in it were entertained

by the horn and lights. To cater for the ladies, a magnificent doll's house was open to the public and appreciated by both young and old.

The display was enhanced by the showing of paintings by two local artists and the sale of some of these contributed to the sum raised. The three-day exhibition was in support of the Think Pink Scotland cancer charity with donations of over £500 being passed to the Glasgow University Trust. The organisers would like to thank all who donated to the event and to Peter Bracewell for the use of the Pottery.



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Spot the Detail

One aspect of the severe winter which everyone remarked on was the drama of the scenery. In fact, someone should write a thesis on the correlation between spectacular vistas and the number of admissions to Accident and Emergency. It was all too easy to allow one's attention to be diverted from the ice in the immediate foreground. Even once the ground level snow had gone, driving to painting class through the same splendid scenery had its own hazards. White hills against a pink and blue sky were positively dangerous, even to an experienced driver. At the same time, the scenery provided lots of paintable subjects.

But it doesn't have to be the grand and impressive that makes a good picture. The display of photographs in the Health Centre waiting room is not only pretty to look at. It is intriguing.

Anyone in there not feeling too clever would find their mind taken off their troubles as they try to pinpoint exactly which roof sports these particular slates, or where the path is with these rough stones. There's not quite so much chance of identifying the holly leaves, lovely though they are, and some of the flowers are bound to remain anonymous, but could it be that the pillar box with the beech hedge behind it is the one outside Spar? If not, where is it? And is that one of the Trust houses lurking behind the bollards and chains? It seems odd to think of taking a photograph like that in the first place, but it works, doesn't it? And if you do want a bit of landscape, the view across to the lower slopes of Dumgoyne is familiar to all and pleasantly restful. Just the thing for a doctor's waiting room.

Thus inspired, it becomes easier to find lots of things which lend themselves to being photographed or painted, and they don't have to be works of nature. They don't even have to be buildings. A discerning eye can see the charm in old railings or even older stone walls, especially if lit from a surprising angle. Iron and wooden benches abound, as do fences in various states of good health and dilapidation. Well Green not only has a well, it also has benches, easy to picture against a grassy backdrop. There are gates into the Kingdom, and rather more grandiose ones at the Buchanan Monument. And the stone pillars at the old graveyard have a kind of superstructure that one doesn't expect. There are also features like the traffic calming cobbles at the entrance to Chestnut Avenue, so much prettier than a sleeping

policeman in lumpy asphalt. Then there are the milestones and pillar boxes and signposts and quirky corners that have odd histories. Not only do they stimulate the memory. They also make a focus for a picture.

Painting classes do not transform the ordinary amateur into a classic artist, but they do make one look at one's surroundings more closely. Here, we are not only blessed with splendid scenery. There are also smaller more tangible features around us that tell their own story. And these stories are worth recording. If there are still the usual categories for painting and photography at this year's Flower Show, wouldn't that be a splendid opportunity to show odd angles of the village to the villagers?

Joyce Begg



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An Easter Flower Arrangement



Khloris Flowers suggest a couple of easy ideas for displaying a few hyacinths this Easter. On the left, a more sophisticated arrangement for the dining table; gather together six hyacinths and place some grasses through them to give height and an added dimension, bind together with tape or ribbon and place in a glass cube vase. On the right, a more rustic display with six hyacinths bound together with tape and placed in a watertight container within a rustic basket

Our Competition Winners



Congratulations to Sara Lennox and her 10-year-old son Jacob who between them took the prizes in the last edition.

Sara solved *Peewit's* cryptic crossword and Jacob successfully tracked down the differences between the two photographs.

Sara had an enjoyable night out with family at the King's Theatre, and Jacob has yet to spend his tenner in Spar.

If you enjoy the challenge, why not drop it in the box in Spar, you may be lucky.

Come on – have a go!

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General Election – 6 May 2010??

At the time of writing the date of the election has still to be announced but it must be held by 3 June 2010.

Brian Byrne, Electoral Registration Officer for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling is advising electors to make sure NOW that they are registered to vote at their current address and if they want to vote by post at the election to make sure that their application is submitted on time.

Poll cards cannot be issued until the election is officially announced and

Lightening the Load For Carers

The aim of Crossroads Caring Scotland (West Stirlingshire) is to help families in caring for dependent members by providing care attendants who take over responsibility for care for short periods on a regular basis. The dependency can be because of chronic illness, physical or mental disability, frail or confused elderly, chronic or terminal illness.

Established in 1981, the West Stirlingshire branch raises funds for the local service which provides meaningful breaks for carers. The area covered runs from Dunblane, Gargunnoch to Loch Lomond, north up to Tyndrum and to Strathblane in the south-west.

Service Manager, Teresa Prescott said: "We have a great team and we try to match our staff to our clients. People who care for a loved one don't necessarily regard themselves as carers and it is important for them to have a meaningful break and recharge their batteries. Donations and fundraising are an important part of what goes on. The generosity of the local community means we can provide a service very quickly."

There is a local Crossroads Forum and anyone interested is encouraged to come along to their quarterly meetings. For more information contact manager: *Teresa Prescott on 01360 449400 or email: crossroadsws@tiscali.co.uk*

(With acknowledgement to Kaiya Marjoribanks of Stirling Observer).

if the minimum notice of 17 working days notice is given poll cards may not reach electors from the printers to near or even after the deadline for applying to vote by post and for registering in time.

If the election is on the 6 May then the last date on which fully completed and signed application forms to vote by post or to register to vote will be 20 April.

Registered electors unable to go to their polling station will have another week until 27 April to apply to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

Anyone who knows they will want to vote by post at the election can apply now for a permanent postal vote or for a temporary application to cover the period they are away from home. However, please note that ballot papers cannot be posted until at least

nine working days before polling day and are unlikely to arrive until 26 April if the election is on 6 May. If you know that you will be away from home before the ballot papers arrive you may apply to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

More information and forms are available on www.saa.gov.uk/central

Postal vote and registration forms are also available to collect in local libraries.

Any community group which wants electoral staff to attend one of their meetings should contact Russell Taylor, Depute ERO as soon as possible.

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Email:

stirling@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk



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Easter Trifle

A trifle with no fruit, just layers of cream, liqueur-sodden sponge, and zesty lemon curd. Try not to skimp on the topping, as it adds an essential crunch! The trifle is all the better for a night in the fridge.

Serves 6

Ingredients:

100g sponge fingers	100g lemon curd
3 tblsp Limoncello liqueur	500ml double cream
120g caster sugar	100ml lemon juice

To finish:

A lemon	Cadbury's mini eggs
Crystallised violets or rose petals	
250ml whipping or double cream	

Method:

Break the sponge fingers in half and spread them thickly with the lemon curd. Place in a glass dish and sprinkle the Limoncello liqueur over them.

Put 500ml of cream into a saucepan and add the sugar. Bring to the boil over a moderate heat, then turn down the heat and leave to simmer for a two or three minutes.

Remove from the heat, stir in the lemon juice, then pour this mix over the sponge fingers. Leave to cool. Once cooled, put in the fridge for a couple of hours, or even overnight, until set.

To finish, whip the 250ml of cream until thick, but stop before it will stand in peaks. Spread the cream loosely over the trifle, then finely grate the lemon zest over the top and add crystallised violets and mini eggs (either whole or crushed up). Return briefly to the fridge until needed.

Gail MacReath

Weegie Easter Eggs

or Deep-fried Cadbury's Creme Eggs

Celebrate the end of Lent with this 'egg-ceedingly' naughty treat. Warning: may bring out your inner Glaswegian.

Ingredients:

Approx. 2 litres sunflower or other oil for deep-frying
150g self-raising flour
220-225ml sparkling water
Cadbury creme egg minis

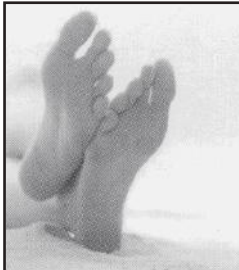
Method:

Heat the oil in a deep-fat fryer to maximum heat (around 180°C). Measure the flour into a bowl, and whisk in 175ml of sparkling water to make the batter. Add more water if the consistency is still too thick. The batter should be just thick enough to stick easily to the eggs.

Plunge the batter-blanketed eggs into the hot oil and fry for two minutes until the batter is puffed and golden.

Absorb any excess grease with kitchen paper. *Eat, guiltily.*

Gail MacReath



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Killearn Burns Ceilidh 2010



Sheona McLaughlin, Neil McArthur, Morag Finn, Shona Docherty, Robert Skelly, Heather McArthur

In the past, Blane Valley Round Table held a Burns Supper at the Black Bull Hotel each year. With the Round Table now disbanded, former Table member Neil McArthur decided to continue running this popular event, but with a ceilidh in addition to the dinner. A very enjoyable evening was held at the Village Hall on 23 January starting with a champagne reception. An excellent four-course dinner prepared and served by Gail MacReath and her team was followed by hilarious speeches by Iain Howie and Shona Docherty. David Pettigrew entertained us with Burns songs and Chris Bell and the Chitterybite Ceilidh Band provided the music for the dancing. Local businesses contributed prizes for the raffle, which raised £915 for CHAS.

We are planning to do the same again in 2011, so watch this space for details!

Blue Monday

I read in the Herald today, 18 January 2010, that 'it is officially *BLUE MONDAY* – the most miserable day of the year'.

A combination of Arctic temperatures, Christmas debt and the next pay day feeling like it's months away leaves many of us depressed and unable to face work. That is what makes today officially the most depressing day of the year.

A bricht braw Day

It might be May

Doon by the burn, sawin wuid

Feelin guid

Nine (jist nine) big midgies dancin in the sun

Haein fun

But mebbe they wur fleas o' May

Wha dee efter jist ae day

So they say

But whit a rerr day they hae

Naebudy tellt them it wis OFISSHULLY

Blue Muinday theday

Carpe diem

John Moreland

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Cubs – “Why we like Killearn”



During a recent visit to the village Cub group, the Cubs took time to tell us why they liked living in Killearn:

“I like living in Killearn because of the activities such as Cubs, Tennis, Beavers, Rainbows and lots more”

“We make lots of friends at Cubs and love to play games”

“I also like Killearn because of its fun events like the Gala Day that is coming up and also Guy Fawkes Night”

“You can go on a walk down the Glen or to the park where you can play hide and seek”

“We like the Tennis courts because it’s a fun energetic place”

“It’s a brilliant place for cycling”

“It has a lovely Butcher with very nice Steak Pies”

“It has two great shops called the Spar and Co-op where we can buy sweets”

“When it is sunny we like going out but when it rains we don’t”

“It has a great school”

“Killearn is awesome”

“The Killearn Courier is amazing” (Cubs always tell the truth).

Courier visits Brownies



The 1st Killearn Brownies have been working on their Writer’s Badge and in January *Courier* reporters paid them a visit to explain how we put the *Courier* together, who’s involved and how it gets to every household in the village. A quiz, with all the answers in the last issue, was won by the Squirrels group. The Brownies showed off the newspapers they had been working on, which had imaginative titles: *Rabbit Reporters*, *Brownies Go Wild*, *Brownie Gossip* and *Foxy Times*. They included interviews, quizzes, word searches and even illustrated fashion ideas. The *Courier* thought all were worthy winners of a Writer’s Badge.

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Rugby Roundup

At the time of going to press, Strathendrick 1st XV has still lost only once this season; the Club are riding high in both their League and Cup competitions. However, although some achievement, it is not quite as startling as it sounds as they only played one game in December, one game in January and already one game in February has been postponed!

It really has been an extraordinary season – for seniors and juniors alike – with waterlogged pitches in the autumn and then the Big Freeze resulting in fixtures being postponed or cancelled week after week. Even training has been difficult with the Astroturf at Balfon Campus out of commission when it is deemed slippery and therefore dangerous. None



the less, the Rugby Club has been well served by the Campus with seniors and juniors using the Astroturf or gym when available: and a new Lads and Dads session (for Minis, Midis and adults) at 8pm on Wednesday evenings proving very popular. With spring around the corner the 1st XV, 2nd XV, Midis and Minis all hope to finish the season strongly. See www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc for progress and details.

Events coming up include the Minis Charity Festival on Sunday 25 April at Fintry Sports Club – the biggest yet! – and the Club's Annual Dinner on Saturday 24 April with guest speakers Robbie Glenn and Archie Ferguson. Unfortunately, with league fixtures already stretching into May, there is no space in the schedule for a President's XV vs Club XV match this season.

2010: A Big Year for Killearn FC

Killearn Football Club was founded before the First World War and will be celebrating its Centenary Year this year with a whole range of special events.

Before the season kicks-off, the Club is planning a Race Night in April, to be followed by a sponsored walk (or run) from Ben Lomond all the way back to Killearn on Saturday 29 May.

The end of June will see a special Football Gathering at the Park in Killearn with SFA qualified coaches working with young people; an Over 30s versus Under 30s football match (which is just bound to be highly competitive!) and a Club barbeque.

What all in the village hope will be another highly successful season will culminate in a Centenary Dinner Dance in the Village Hall on Saturday 13 November.

For further details please contact Donald Beaton on 550679 or any member of the Killearn FC Committee.

The Courier extends congratulations to Killearn FC on its Centenary Year, wishing the Club many more years of outstanding success

STRATHENDRICK RUGBY CLUB

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT

Sunday 6 June Start: 4pm

from Killearn Health Centre Car Park

(part of the Killearn Hoolie week of events)

Entry £10 per car

for details email: nick.hawkins@bbc.co.uk

***Bring your family or form a team
with friends – crack the cryptic clues,
trace the treasure, win prizes
and enjoy the craik!***

Killearn Football Club is situated in a beautiful village, boasts some fine players and has achieved remarkable, record-breaking success on the field in recent years but its facilities are sadly lacking. And so, discussions are underway with Stirling Council to try – in the Club's Centenary Year – to realise a long-held ambition: to build its own Changing Rooms. Talks have progressed well and the Club hopes to draw up plans shortly. Watch the local press – and future editions of the *Courier* – for developments.

Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2009/10 season for Strathendrick Curling Club has been memorable for a number of reasons, including the new rink at The Peak in Stirling, an 8-ender, the refurbishment of Drumore Pond and several outside curling sessions. The main club Autumn League was fittingly won by the President's team of Mike Jackson, Bob Glass, Richard Kingslake, Sandy Park and Jennifer Simmers by two points from Fiona Glass's team of Fiona Glass, Maurice Rennie, David Hale, Gail Pain and Des Burt.

The Ladies Autumn League for the Peat Trophy was won by the team jointly skipped by Fiona Glass and Helen Watson of Rita Mearns, Elean Bonner and Alison Robinson. The Christmas Bonspiel was held at The Peak, Stirling followed by Christmas Lunch in the Restaurant when the winning team was again skipped by Fiona Glass, this time with Rita Barth and Marion Richardson.



In the Forth and Endrick Province leagues, Strathendrick are at the top of the Robert Paterson Shield at The Peak, four points clear of the next team, although at the time of writing, some clubs have matches in hand. In the Forest Hills League played at Braehead, Strathendrick are tied at the top, with two more matches to play.



In the Province Medal Bonspiel against nine other clubs, Strathendrick won for the first time for many years by winning 13 out of a maximum of 16 ends. At the Province Weekend competition at Kinross, the Club was tied for second place behind Loch Ard, who went on to represent the Province at the National Province Championships. In the Province knock-out competition for the Jim Carswell Cup, Strathendrick lost out to Drymen Curling Club in the final by one shot in the final end.

The Club were disappointed that the Grand Match at the Lake of Menteith was cancelled, but eight of our members experienced playing at the Lake in the evening under floodlights, against the local team of Port of Menteith.

If you are interested in trying curling, or taking it up again, contact: *President Mike Jackson* or *Secretary Stan Moore*. Visit the website: www.strathendrickcurling.co.uk

The photographs show members experiencing outdoor curling, some for the first time, thanks to David and Jean Clark (*see article below*).

Strathendrick Curling Club Honorary Membership Award



On 2 January, while celebrating their 10th annual meander around the village, Strathendrick Curling Club again visited the Still Room of Glengoyne Distillery where appropriate refreshments were partaken. On this occasion the opportunity was also taken to honour two local people, David and Jean Clark, by awarding them Honorary Membership of the Strathendrick Curling Club.

In his presentation Club President, Mike Jackson, paid tribute to

the generosity and enthusiasm which have been a feature of the contribution that the Clarks have made. He explained that the traditional village outdoor curling pond is on land owned by the Clarks and in recent years they have both been very supportive in re-instating the pond. In the two weeks prior to

Christmas they had been working with the Club and a local contractor to clear the reeds and moss which had begun to choke the area. Within two days of this work being completed the water drained into the dug out area and froze. The Club enjoyed several days curling over the Christmas and New Year cold snap and even had an informal match against Balforn Curling Club.

The photograph shows Mike handing David and Jean their certificates.

Stirling Council offers free training to local businesses

There is good news for businesses in Stirling during time of recession; Stirling Council has successfully secured funding to provide free training to local businesses. Through the ASPIRE programme employees can access tailored training to meet employers' and employees' workplace needs.

Support is available to employees who struggle to keep apace with changes in the workplace or perhaps need to improve their core skills. This could be literacy, numeracy, IT, communication or English language skills to enable employees delivering competently and accurately in their job. ASPIRE can also offer training, equipment or software to help employees with physical health problems, mental health problems or disabilities deliver at work more efficiently.

The ASPIRE project will run to March 2011.

To find out more contact:

Marianne Eik, project co-ordinator

Tel: 01786 432366 or

Email eikm@stirling.gov.uk

Strathendrick's 8-ender

An 8-ender is a very rare occurrence in curling. It could be compared to a hole-in-one at golf but is, in fact, even rarer! It happens when the eight shots played by one side outscore the eight played by the opposition at one end and at the finish of that end remain in the house and score eight shots. This occurred in December last year in a Strathendrick League match at the the new Peak Ice Rink at Stirling and at the time was the first such 8-ender at the Peak. Strathendrick Curling Club was formed in 1846 and there is no record of an 8-ender ever having happened before in the Club's records.



(l to r) Ian Bowie; Norman Robertson; Rita Harris; Phillip Pain



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Killearn Tennis Club



As the new season gets underway we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible out on court enjoying what promises to be a great summer. Join us and make the most of your local tennis facilities.

To mark the start of the season the tennis club is holding its Open Day on Saturday 27 March. A junior session will be held from 2 to 3pm, with seniors between 3 and 5pm. Everyone is welcome – members, guests and non-members alike and this is a great opportunity for anyone thinking about joining/rejoining the club to come along. Refreshments will be available and good weather has been arranged in advance!

We had a great response in 2009 to our coaching programme and have more planned this year.

For details of any of the tennis club activities please contact:

Patsy Hutchison on 550270 or Anne Delargy on 550253.

Dates for Your Diary:

- Open Day, Saturday 27 March
- American Tournament 8 May
- Family BBQ, Saturday 5 June

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Closing Date: 10 April 2010

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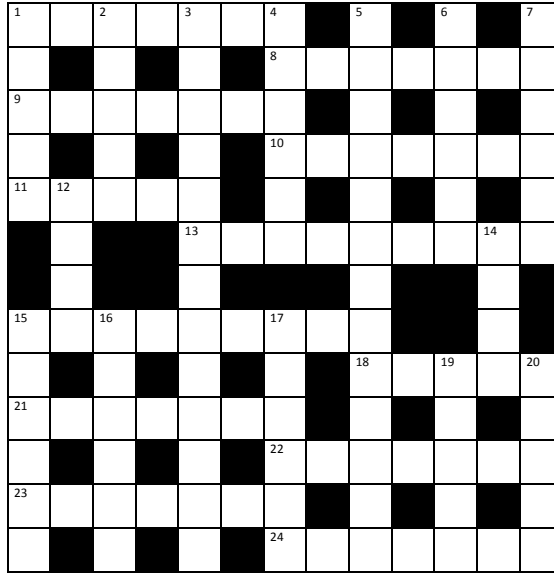
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Solution to the last Crossword Across: 1 Hogmanay party; 8 miscast; 9 aimed; 10 acid; 11 tribunal; 13 toggle; 14 blithe; 17 minstrel; 19 pies; 21 tawse; 22 lasagne; 24 Christmas tree. Down: 1 Ham; 2 gosling; 3 away; 4 astern; 5 playbill; 6 Roman; 7 yodeller; 10 asthmatic; 12 glitters; 15 trigger; 16 bedlam; 18 newer; 20 asps; 23 eye.

ACROSS

1. Startle when a noise is around the beginning (7)
8. I arrive around the South of France (7)
9. Completely in and around Lydd (7)
10. Liquid metal planet (7)
11. Dislike what's in a drab horse (5)
13. Curb party transport (9)
15. Keynes – green without fog (9)
18. Eddie – a bird? (5)
21. Vomited when scoundrel lost head to journalist (7)
22. Smoothing out at nightfall (7)
23. Five in a ball go forward (7)
24. Hates all of French exams (7)

DOWN

1. Abstainers with mixed rubbish in large tube (5)
2. Oh cut around feeling (5)
3. Colder hunting in this maybe (13)
4. Chaps not wet here (6)
5. Say too much on top of report (13)
6. Gorgon at sea by America (6)
7. Defile Churchman without unknown letter (6)
12. Obstruct no end of alliance (4)
14. Sounds like a lazy god (4)
15. War axe can affect hearing (6)
16. Interval at cove (6)
17. Truly a river without us contains another (6)
19. Gets more when I sang around (5)
20. Borders, neatly cut hedges (5)

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: Sarah Lennox, Killearn

CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by SPAR

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

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



Name Age.

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Jacob Lennox, aged 10

Closing Date for both competitions – 10 April 2010. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

American Star spotted near Killearn



© Martin Culshaw

A rare visitor from across the Atlantic has spent the first part of the winter in the Killearn area ...

The *Spotted Sandpiper* from North America was discovered near the confluence of the Endrick and Blane rivers on 28 November, the bird's identity being confirmed the following day. At the time it was the rarest bird in the country, demonstrating that rare birds can turn up just about anywhere!

Spotted Sandpiper, a medium-sized wader, is very similar to our more familiar *Common Sandpiper*, a summer visitor from Africa that inhabits our riverbanks. How do you tell them apart? Well, as its name suggests, *Spotted Sandpiper*

is covered in spots – on its underside at least. However, young birds don't have these spots and adults lose them in winter so identifying one at this time of year is much trickier. In addition, some *Common Sandpipers* can occasionally forget to head south for the winter! The Killearn bird had a few residual spots that could be made out with good telescope views. More subtle features also had to be noted to confirm the identification.

With the sandpiper lingering into mid-December, many birdwatchers found the time to travel to see it. The bird often showed well at close range, however, frustratingly it could also be quite elusive while moving up and down both rivers as part of its daily routine. The very

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cold weather in December finally encouraged its departure ... to who knows where.

The *Spotted Sandpiper* really is a very rare bird in this country. There are only just over 20 records for Scotland (out of about 160 for Britain), most of which have been found at coastal sites. So the Killearn bird was doubly extraordinary in choosing such an inland location. Amazingly, a pair turned up on the Isle of Skye in 1975 and attempted to breed. Despite being unsuccessful, this still represents the only such occurrence on this side of the Atlantic.

Keeping the Killearn *Spotted Sandpiper* company were *Dipper*, *Kingfisher* and *Grey Wagtail* – all avian indicators of a healthy and wildlife-friendly river system.

Martin Culshaw



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