



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 46

SPRING 2020

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Noticeboard

16 Mar	<p>Just do Pilates Village Hall, 9.30am–10.30am, thereafter every Monday. Also Wednesdays, 7.30pm–8.30pm and Thursdays 11am–12noon. All levels welcome. Contact Willie McIntosh (williemac.justdopilates@gmail.com; 07733 406464).</p> <p>Monday Club every Monday afternoon, Village Hall, Main Hall and Garden Room.</p> <p>Stillness Moves – Meditation and Mindful Movement Village Hall, 6.45pm–8pm, thereafter every Monday. Best for those with some meditation and yoga experience. Contact Adelaide (ashalhope@stillnessmoves.com; 07809 469572).</p>	20 Mar	<p>Buchanan Castle Bridge Club Village Hall Garden Room, 2pm–5pm, thereafter every Friday. Contact Lesley Nicholl (07720 978998; lesleynic7@icloud.com).</p>
	<p>Yoga class Village Hall, 10.30am, thereafter every Tuesday. Also Thursdays, 7pm. Contact Craig Buchanan (craig@insideryoga.net).</p> <p>Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch morning workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Talk at 2pm by Joyce Watson, 'Still Stitching'. Guild folios will be on display. Visitors welcome. £3 half day, £4 full day.</p> <p>Tai Chi for Health Village Hall Main Hall, 10.45am–11.45am, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Sukyee (sukyee.tai@gmail.com).</p> <p>DIY Circuits Village Hall, 6.30pm–7.30pm, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Fiona (fiona.rennie@btinternet.com) or Nick (07860 700928).</p> <p>Killearn Bridge Club Village Hall Garden Room, 7pm–10.30pm, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Arthur Whittaker (bridgewebs.com/killearn 07748 636312)</p> <p>Killearn Kirk Guild AGM dinner with Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p>	22 Mar	<p>Youth Club Village Hall, 3pm–4pm, thereafter every Sunday. One hour of activities for children aged 7–12 years. Contact Archie Wilson (07786 913573; archie@treesurgery.com).</p>
17 Mar	<p>Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch morning workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Talk at 2pm by Joyce Watson, 'Still Stitching'. Guild folios will be on display. Visitors welcome. £3 half day, £4 full day.</p> <p>Tai Chi for Health Village Hall Main Hall, 10.45am–11.45am, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Sukyee (sukyee.tai@gmail.com).</p> <p>DIY Circuits Village Hall, 6.30pm–7.30pm, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Fiona (fiona.rennie@btinternet.com) or Nick (07860 700928).</p> <p>Killearn Bridge Club Village Hall Garden Room, 7pm–10.30pm, thereafter every Tuesday. Contact Arthur Whittaker (bridgewebs.com/killearn 07748 636312)</p> <p>Killearn Kirk Guild AGM dinner with Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p>	24 Mar	<p>Colourful Killearn Spring Meeting. Village Hall, 8pm. All welcome to plan summer colour. Contact Mike Gray (550962; mike@kcfc.co.uk).</p>
	<p>Yoga class Village Hall, 9.30am–10.30am, thereafter every Wednesday. Suitable for all. Contact Sarah Fleming (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).</p> <p>Monaghan Tae Kwon Do children's classes. Village Hall, 6pm–9pm, thereafter every Wednesday. Contact David Monaghan (monaghantaekwondo@outlook.com; 07472 210735).</p> <p>Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.</p>	24-28 Mar	<p>FADs pantomime <i>Calamity Jane</i>. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30pm and matinee Sat., 2pm. Tickets on sale via the website at fintrydrama.org.uk. Adults; £12, under 16s, £8.</p>
18 Mar	<p>Yoga class Village Hall, 9.30am–10.30am, thereafter every Wednesday. Suitable for all. Contact Sarah Fleming (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).</p> <p>Monaghan Tae Kwon Do children's classes. Village Hall, 6pm–9pm, thereafter every Wednesday. Contact David Monaghan (monaghantaekwondo@outlook.com; 07472 210735).</p> <p>Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.</p>	26 Mar	<p>Killearn Golden Years Club Annual Dinner. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm.</p> <p>Drymen & District Local History Society illustrated talk by Christina Noble on her book, <i>Arkinglas: the geography of a Highland Estate</i>. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2.</p>
19 Mar	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	27 Mar	<p>Killearn Primary School Fundraising Group Race Night. Village Hall, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. £10 per ticket.</p>
20 Mar	<p>Dancercise Village Hall, 10am–11am, thereafter every Friday. Low impact dance-based exercise and routines for the over 50s. Contact Yasmin (07979 856837; yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk).</p> <p>Taiji and Qigong Village Hall Garden Room, 10.30am–11.45am, thereafter every Friday. Contact Susanne Lin Jesem (07979 860754; Susanne@dragonspringtaiji.co.uk).</p> <p>Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Green Book</i>. Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p>	28 Mar	<p>Killearn Village Hall Chicken-keeping classes by Angela McCooney from the Hilltops Hen Hotel. From 9.30am. Contact Angela (hilltopshenhotel.co.uk; 07915 427115).</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	29 Mar	<p>Strathendrick Singers Easter Concert. A musical tour of the Baltic region including Ola Gjeilo's stirring <i>Sunrise Mass</i>. Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets (£12 for adults, under 16s free) available at the door or from choir members.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	3 Apr	<p>Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society</i>. Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p> <p>Killearn Village Hall Charity Race Night to raise funds for the Variety Club. 7pm. Contact Matt Gingles (gingles@gmail.com).</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	5 Apr	<p>Killearn Village Hall one-man show with comedian Scott Gibson. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets on door or at www.scottgibsoncomedy.co.uk. BYOB.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	7 Apr	<p>Town Break Friendship Group meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 1.30pm–3.30pm, thereafter first Tuesday of the month. Details at www.townbreakstirling.org.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	10 Apr	<p>Killearn Health Centre closed.</p> <p>Killearn Kirk Good Friday service, 10.30am.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	12 Apr	<p>Killearn Kirk Easter service, 10.30am.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	13 Apr	<p>Killearn Health Centre closed.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	15 Apr	<p>Killearn Community Council meeting. Village Hall or Kirk Hall (tbc), 8pm.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	16 Apr	<p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'The Sword and the Staff: Art and Architecture on the Pilgrim Way to Santiago de Compestela'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>
	<p>Lynda Turner School of Dancing dance classes for children of all ages. Village Hall, 3pm–5pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).</p> <p>The Arts Society Stirling lecture. 'Imperial Calcutta: Art and Architecture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.</p>	17 Apr	<p>Killearn Sustainability Group meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 8.30pm. All welcome.</p>

Noticeboard continued

- 18 Apr **Balfron Bowling Club** Opening Day at the Club. Buchanan St, Balfron. 2pm–5pm. All welcome.
- 21 Apr **Embroiderers' Guild** morning workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. 12 noon: EGM. Talk at 2pm by Elizabeth Cumming, 'Arts and Crafts Embroidery in Scotland'. Guild folios will also be on display. Visitors welcome. £3 half day, £4 full day.
- 23 Apr **Drymen & District Local History Society** Members' Night, featuring members' talks and AGM. Drymen Village Hall. Talks will be preceded by cheese and wine from 7.15pm–7.45pm and followed by the AGM. Non-members very welcome, admission £2.
- 2 May **Sustainable Killearn Fayre** Village Hall, 1pm–4pm. Fun and information, including face painting and a smoothie bike. More information from Adam Hollis (adamjhollis@gmail.com).
- Killearn Kirk concert** City of Glasgow Chorus performing a programme of choral classics. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm–8pm. Adults £10, under 16s free including wine or soft drink and shortbread. See Killearn Kirk website or Facebook for information or contact Anne (550605).
- 4 May **Killearn Health Centre** closed.
- 14 May **Killearn Sustainability Group** meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 8.30pm. All welcome.
- 16 May **Killearn Horticultural Society** in conjunction with **Killearn Tennis Club** Plant sale and coffee morning. Village Hall, 10am–12 noon.
- 20 May **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 21 May **The Arts Society Stirling** lecture. 'A Decorative Art: The History of Wallpapers'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.
- 24 May **Balfron Bowling Club** 'Try Bowls' morning at the club. Buchanan St, Balfron, 10am. All welcome.
- Loch Ard Sailing Club** 'Discover Sailing' open day sponsored by the RYA. 1pm–4pm at the club. All welcome. More information at www.lochardsc.org.uk.
- 29 May **Killearn Primary School Fundraising Group** Banksy's Quiz. Village Hall, 7pm. Tickets via Facebook page or email kpn.fundraisinggroup@gmail.com.
- 10 June **Killearn Golden Years Club** Annual Outing to Portpatrick and Stranraer.
- 11 June **Killearn Sustainability Group** meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 8.30pm. All welcome.
- 17 June **Killearn Community Council** meeting and AGM. Killearn Primary School, 7.45pm.
- 18 June **The Arts Society Stirling** lecture. 'Looking for Georgia O'Keefe – My Travels through New Mexico in the Footsteps of Georgia O'Keefe'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am.
- 29 Aug **Killearn Horticultural Society** Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. For schedule and enquiries contact Glenda Asquith (550142; kchs@killearn.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).

There's one thing for sure this year – we will probably get a few more storms. We've already had Brendan, Ciara and Dennis; the next one will be called Ellen, but who knows when she will arrive.

Having said that, the *Courier* has hit you with its own storm. This issue is, as always, laid out to a very professional and high standard and this, coupled with lots of interesting items, will tempt you to sit back in a comfy seat, somewhere nice and toasty, and enjoy the magazine in the comfort of your own home protected from the outside weather.

You will find articles from our regular contributors who have been sending in their items for many years. I don't know how they manage to keep them coming, and keep them interesting, but long may they stay with us.

We aim to produce a magazine that will give you information which we think is important, for example, the report from the Health Centre, the police report and what to do about scams.

In fact, our goal is to produce a *Courier* so varied in its content that there is something in it for everyone. Where else could you read, in no particular order, sporting pages, historical information about Killearn, the wonders of nature, how to get fit, visits to Guyana and Ethiopia, online gaming, the weather, bridge play, curling, the Heritage Trail, Sustainable Killearn, details of our advertisers, all in one place?

The Noticeboard provides information about what is happening in the months ahead and the Letters page allows you to voice your opinions and concerns. Your views are always welcome.

We have always held a couple of competitions. The Crossword is well supported and the prize is certainly worth the effort of sending in your answer, as demonstrated by the remarks we receive from those who have won two tickets for Theatre Royal. The Children's Competition gives the winner a voucher for £10 to spend in our Co-op. Unfortunately, this competition is in danger of being cancelled because of the lack of entrants, so come on kids, get your answers in!

Finally, a big thank you to our advertisers, volunteer deliverers and readers for your support. Enjoy this issue.

Ian

Cover Image

Photo of spring flower tubs outside Killearn Kirk provided by Colourful Killearn

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor

I suspect I am not alone in feeling extremely saddened by the loss of access to the cow field. As a dog owner, I will miss this facility, not only as a beautiful and convenient way to exercise my dogs, but also as an opportunity for social interaction. It was an extremely friendly place and I believe served a great community function. I feel there is another loss to our community beyond us dog walkers – the young children. I won't be alone with my wonderful memories of the bad winters of 2009 and 2010 when the schools were closed and all the kids spent the days sledging and us mums stood at the top of the hill with flasks of mulled wine and coffee. My children had an idyllic time growing up in this village, and the field played a huge part in allowing them the freedom we had in the 1960s and '70s.

I understand that the owners have to consider their commercial interests – it's not community land and everyone needs to make a living. That living is through livestock destined for our tables. We must all be aware of the impact of the meat industry on our health, on animal welfare and the environment. Now that the impact is in our backyard, is this our wake-up call to consider more plant-based eating? I would be interested in opinions of others.

Yours sincerely
Caroline Critchley

News in brief

The Christmas Post raised the grand sum of £810.95 for CHAS. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously – and to the team of volunteers.

Congratulations to Dunblane High School, named Scottish State Secondary School of the Year in the *Sunday Times Schools Guide* in November 2019. Many parents and former pupils will remember Head Teacher Stuart McKay during his – we trust, formative – years at Balfron High.

Local band Platform C once again entertained friends and family on Hogmanay in the Village Hall. The lead singer this year was David Pettigrew. The evening was enjoyed by all, and raised the fantastic sum of £1,309.80 for Strathcarron Hospice.

Dear Sir

Since the Council took jurisdiction for policing double yellow lines in the village, it has been made crystal clear that this is a village of law breakers. I've never seen so many people illegally parked on double yellows in all the time I've lived here. It's a disgrace! Road markings are there for a reason, and not to be ignored just because the chance of getting caught is just about zero. Or for the bad excuse that it's 'only for a minute, so it's OK'. What lessons are they teaching their children? They also have pretty short memories! Remember the snow in 2010, and Main Street so bunged up with cars on the double yellow lines that emergency services couldn't get through? Shame on all these drivers.

Can the *Courier* publish photos of cars illegally parked? That might be the only thing that stops this illegal and thoughtless behaviour!

Concerned, Main Street
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Sir

May I please draw your readers' attention, yet again, to the unpleasant manifestation of mounds of dog muck on our pavements? I have noticed this particularly on the Main Street and Station Road, but nowhere is immune. Please! If you have a dog, it's your responsibility to clean up after it. (And leaving full poop bags for others to deal with isn't helping, either.)

Disgusted, Station Road
(Name and address supplied)



T: 01360 850525
Ward Toll, Near Aberfoyle G63 0QZ



www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
benviewgardencentre@outlook.com

You Can't Stop the Colour!

Colourful Killearn would like to wish you all a Happy New (Gardening) Year! Even as I write in mid January, the seasonal procession of flowering has begun, brought on by the (so far) mild winter.

Winter-laden hearts are lifted by the first spears of pure white snowdrops poking through grass and leaf litter, closely followed by intensely blue dwarf irises and the patchwork of multi coloured crocus. Varieties of daffodil will start appearing from early February onwards through to late April.

All these, and more, are carefully planted and tended in barrels, troughs and beds by our volunteers, while naturalised bulbs are left to do their own thing in areas of grass. We add more and more as the years tick by, though depredation by deer, roadworks, vandals and rot work against us! We'll keep battling on, as who can fail to be cheered up by a roadside tub full of beautiful flowers!

At Christmas last year, the top of the village was again graced by a magnificent tree in the Kirk grounds. It was generously donated by Edenmill, who also helped us to put it upright in its stand. Volunteers finished off by attaching the lights and bracing it against the inevitable stormy weather. Thanks to fundraising efforts by April Maxwell, this traditional addition to the festive village was complemented by a new set of lights on the tree at the corner of the Village Hall, and these continue to light up the dark nights.



All this, of course, requires planning, our next meeting will be on 24 March at 8pm in the Village Hall. Please join us and contribute to keeping Killearn colourful. Contact Mike Gray (550962; mike@kfc.co.uk).

Green Fingers Talks Seedlings

Although we still have the winter winds, we are seeing little shoots of spring. Young men's minds may turn to fancy, but those with thoughts of a bountiful garden need to turn to thoughts of planting.

Time to choose those veg seeds and get the germinators out and washed down. A good-quality seed compost and maybe a bit of vermiculite can get you off to a flying start with your vegetable or bedding plant growing. A covered propagator – either bought or made out of plastic food trays – and a little warmth can boost things even more. There's a great website for a build-your-own heated propagator (made from rope lights) for folks who want to take their seed growing to the next level (search 'doorgarden heat for seed starting').

Once you get your seedlings germinated and looking hopeful, it's time to plant them up and, if needs be,

nip them out to form sturdy plants. You can, of course, start growing some salad veg inside to tide you over 'til the external crops come into play.

Meanwhile, it's also time to tidy up the herbaceous border and maybe split and tidy some of the more established plants.

If you have great success with germination and have surplus plants, why not share or swap them with your friends or donate them to the Horticultural Society's plant sale on 16 May? If you are not so blessed with growing seedlings, you can get your supplies of bedding and, hopefully, veg and perennials at the sale.

Happy growing!

HEATHER WRIGHT
KILLEARN COTTAGERS'
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Weather Channel

We had a topsy-turvy year of weather, with some dry and quite warm spells, some heavy bursts of rain, but (at the time of writing) no snow.

Although Killearn had a wet autumn, the three months from September saw near record levels of rain in England, with 900 properties flooded and a further 21,000 others just avoiding it. The ground is saturated and flood storage areas are full.

Worldwide, the effects of global warming are being felt in many countries. Australia, recording temperatures into the 40°C range and with little rainfall for six months, has suffered from devastating fires. Greenland is losing its ice sheet seven times faster than it was ten years ago, while the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is also melting and threatening sea level rises that have implications for low-lying Bangladesh and many Pacific islands.

Rugby supporters worldwide became aware of Typhoon Hagibis (meaning swift or fast) as it devastated parts of Japan and postponed some of the Rugby World Cup matches. It certainly lived up to its name, with winds recorded at 250km an hour and a eye (centre of storm) of 55km. Meteorologists claimed it was a super typhoon Category 5. Habibis claimed nearly 100 lives, and destroyed many homes and businesses.

A typhoon is a mature tropical cyclone that develops in the Northwestern Pacific basin. Hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones are all the same phenomenon, but different parts of the world use different names. When wind speeds reach 120km an hour they are classified as a typhoon.

These storms occur when warm moist air rises from the land or ocean surface and a low pressure system develops, sucking in more air from surrounding areas. This air is warmed by the ocean (around 27°C in Japan at the time). As the water vapour rises it cools, condenses and forms cumulonimbus storm clouds. Via this process, a lot of energy is released and it is this latent heat release which drives these tropical cyclones. The system grows as it sucks in more air, feeding off the warm sea water.

These tropical storms often weaken when they hit land and are cut off from their supply of warm water, but



not before they have flooded the land and the high winds have created havoc. Flooding happens as water levels are elevated by the very low atmospheric pressure and the large waves forced by the strong winds.

Global warming means that the air can hold more water vapour and that sea temperatures are rising, leading to concerns that the number or strength of these intense tropical cyclones may increase. But their relative rarity makes proving this hypothesis difficult. Computer models suggest that the proportion of rainfall classified as heavy will increase in a warming world, as will the year-to-year variability which, in turn, will increase the number of flooding events. The widespread flooding in Yorkshire and Derbyshire may not be the last we see in the next few years.

Naming tropical storms is very useful to avoid confusion, especially when there are several active at the same time. Many storms in the Pacific are named after plants, animals, flowers or have natural descriptions (like Hagibis). Others, particularly in the Atlantic, have been given personal names beginning with successive letters of the alphabet since the 1940s. For many years only female names were used since the almost exclusively male meteorological community in the USA considered girls' names appropriate for such unpredictable and dangerous phenomena. In the 1970s, the growing number of female meteorologists began to voice their objections to such sexist practise, and since 1978, male and female names have alternated.

TOM RENFREW

Yearly Summary for Killearn (2019)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Temp	11.5	15.8	11.3	19.9	25.8	27.3	30.1	27.1	20.9	14.2	11.1	11.5
Lowest Temp	-7.8	-7.4	-5.3	-1.9	0.2	4.8	7.2	7.7	4.2	-0.7	-4.9	-5.8
Mean Temp	3.4	6.2	3.1	7.5	9.8	13	16	14.7	12	7.7	4	4.9
Days Below Freezing	16	11	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2
Highest Wind Gust	30	28	28	23	33	29	20	19	18	18	18	22
Monthly Rain	46	65	90.8	88.2	51.8	24	90.6	167.8	94.4	120.3	53	152.4
Most Rain in 24 hrs	6.2	21.4	13.4	19	13	7	8.6	29.2	28.5	23.6	6.8	23.4
Days without Rain	19	18	10	11	13	11	12	9	10	12	9	5
Cumulative Rainfall	46	111	201.8	290	341.8	365.8	456.4	624.2	718.6	838.9	891.9	1044.3

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

Picking up the Sustainability Pace

It is fair to say that 2019 has been a watershed for sustainable issues across the globe. As a local community group, Sustainable Killearn also sees a greater urgency to address the environmental challenges that face us all.

There is now a working group which meets monthly in the Village Hall to find ways in which we can make Killearn more sustainable. Check out Killearn Sustainability Group's Facebook Page for updates and please come along if you are interested.

Meetings will be held at 8.30pm in the Village Hall Garden Room on 17 April, 14 May and 11 June.

Our first event of 2020 – 'Swish' – was held on 17 January. This giant swap was very popular, providing participants with the opportunity to pick up items of clothing that were new to them. Even better, it has given clothes a new lease of life and in doing so reduced a great deal of waste and energy.

Other activities we are working on include:

- Partnering with Home Energy Scotland to help you improve your home energy usage, for example through home energy surveys, and with advice on domestic grants for more efficient heating.
- Recognising Killearn as a Fairtrade village by making more use of Fairtrade products here. Working with the Energy Saving Trust to buy and loan out a number of electric bikes to the community as an extended trial.
- Promoting NeighbourFood in collaboration with our friends G63Hub, an initiative which allows you to pick up locally sourced food and sustainable products. Search 'G63Hub' for details.

We also continue to speak to the Council about adding new charging points for EVs, and are considering ideas for projects such as a community shed for sharing tools and learning skills, a community growing area, tree planting and workshops with guest speakers.

If you have any queries, thoughts, or wish to join the wider group, email us at sustainability@kfcf.co.uk.

Sustainable Killearn Fayre 2020

Building on last year's successful event, this year's fayre will be held on Saturday, 2 May from 1pm–4pm.

We will be asking for you to participate in a way that is as fun as possible while still maintaining a focus on the serious environmental challenges. We intend to have a good representation across the generations so again expect face paints and the smoothie bike for the younger ones.

Attendees will be invited to participate in the Killearn Climate Competition where awards will be handed out to our most eco residents. Younger volunteers will carry out an optional survey to see how you rank in our competition. This should also help to give us an idea of what the community considers to be the main environmental priorities for the village and how much we think the village can improve next year.



Swish swap event

We will also be setting a challenge for the younger community to take part in a poster competition with the winner being selected on the day.

Anyone with passionate beliefs about what is happening to the climate and what we should be doing about it are invited to stand up and make their case. We will be encouraging younger members of our community to let us know their thoughts on a range of topics such as renewable energy, sustainable travel, waste and recycling, food and agriculture, climate protests, etc. Any visual aids and props to make your case more convincing would be welcome!

We're still working to organise the event and we're open to ideas about how best to make it a success. If you have something to suggest or would like a stall at the event, contact Adam Hollis (adamjhollis@gmail.com).

Online Survey

We would like to hear your thoughts on what a 'sustainable Killearn' could look like and we've set up a short poll to gain your views. Please email sustainability@kfcf.co.uk to request a paper or digital version of the poll.

Menzies Hall Fintory

24–28 March 7.30pm
Saturday matinee, 2pm

FADS is whip-cracking away, with an all-singing, all-dancing production of *Calamity Jane* – the stage adaptation of the famous Doris Day film.

Set in Deadwood City in the 1800s, we meet Calamity Jane, a sharp-shootin' tomboy, surrounded by cowboys, townsfolk and Wild Bill Hickok. A merry romp ensues, with mistaken identities, unrequited love and, of course, a happy ending! Dust off your cowboy hats, boots and spurs and join us at the Golden Garter Saloon!

**Tickets and information at fintorydrama.org.uk
or phone 01360 551076
Adults, £12; under 16s, £8**

Calamity Jane





Christmas now seems a distant memory, although it would be difficult to forget the splendid Christmas lunch arranged by the Friends and enjoyed by the residents, Friends of Abbeyfield, Rev. Stuart Sharp and other guests. Our able ‘chefs’, Phillip Pain and Ray Davidson Carr cooked the traditional turkey and the ladies on the Friends committee supplied the delicious desserts.

Prior to Christmas, the Friends took several of the residents to the Fintry pantomime, an outing which was

thoroughly enjoyed by all. The pantomime, as usual, was excellent.

Other outings during the months before Christmas included a trip to Forth Valley College where residents and Friends enjoyed an excellent lunch, and a further outing to the Kirkhouse Inn for lunch.

The residents also enjoyed a musical evening in December, organised by Barbara, the housekeeper, and sponsored by the Friends at which residents and their guests were entertained by the group BA-lex. A fun evening was complete with delicious refreshments.

At the time of writing, further outings are to be arranged at the February committee meeting of the Friends.

Since our last article in the *Courier*, we have lost the newest member of the committee, Charles Fox, who resigned as he has moved out of the area. We thank him for all his hard work. The Friends are always looking for new members to join the committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Phillip Pain (550752) or Linda Astley-Jones (440235). LINDA ASTLEY-JONES

Turnip the Beet Christmas Lunch

The day was a great success. We had 15 guests of various ages and situations, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. We greeted our guests with canapés and fizz, and then enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner with goose (donated by Hewitt & Aker) and turkey, accompanied by a variety of side dishes.

We had a beautiful Christmas cake for dessert, donated by local business, Flour Girl, which was followed by a cheeseboard and tablet. It was a lovely day thanks to all of our volunteers and kind donors. We are hoping we can offer the event again next year and are interested in seeing how it may grow. LAURA BURT



turnip the beet



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Killearn Health Centre News

Staff Changes Dr Frank Mayaya left us in February to continue his training. He will be back with us in August 2021 for his final year. We welcomed back Dr Andrew Haslett in February to complete his final year of training.

Additional Services – there is no need to see a GP first, simply ask at reception for an appointment.

Mental Health Nurse – Jane Yule is our Practice Mental Health Nurse. If you have any issues with low mood, stress or anxiety, please book an appointment with Jane.

Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner – Jenn Marr is our practice-based advanced physiotherapy practitioner who will consult on any issues with neck, back or general joint pain. Ask at reception to book an appointment.

Shingles Vaccination Any patient who was 70 years old on 1 September 2019 is entitled to the shingles vaccination this year. If you were aged 71 to 79 years on 1 September 2019 and have not been vaccinated in previous years, you are still entitled to the vaccination. Please book an appointment at reception.

Local Pharmacy Services Your local pharmacy may be able to order repeat prescriptions on your behalf, meaning your dispensed prescription items will be available for collection at the pharmacy. Please ask your pharmacy for more information. Pharmacists also offer treatment and advice on a range of common ailments, so please ask them for more information.

Killearn Village Hall

The ‘c’ in ‘community’ is for commitment. Every day we see committed individuals coming into the hall bringing with them segments of the community to learn something, run around or relax, meet or chat or share ideas, to party and celebrate.

The building of a community is dependent on those committed people, and we want to say a big thank you. We all know who they are, but it’s easy to take their commitment for granted... so, thank you.

At the Village Hall, we’re committed to supporting the community, too. We welcome our regulars – and newcomers. The Swish clothes swap, the pop-up café, the Hilltops Hen Hotel, Spanish classes, sewing for Australia, Race Nights, comedy nights...

We were super chuffed to be able to support the Christmas lights project. A big thanks to all who donated funds, as well as to April Maxwell for making it happen.

What could you bring to the community? We’re here to talk about options for classes, activities, parties, so please contact us via email (killearnvillagehall@gmail.com).

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Playing the Game

Online gaming is one of the biggest trends today. Everyone loves gaming, from those playing a few games on their phones during a train journey to people playing on their X-box eight hours a day and competing internationally.

One of the most popular online games is Fortnite by Epic Games. There are approximately 250 million Fortnite players worldwide. The game was released in 2017 and its popularity grew quickly. This growth in popularity led to a Fortnite World Cup where nearly 30 countries were represented in the finals.

Last year, a 15-year-old boy, Jaden Ashman from Essex, came second in the Fortnite World Cup with his Dutch gaming partner, Dave Jong. They split the £1.8 million prize money after beating nearly 40 million people so they could compete and earn an exceptional place at the finals.

Jaden's mother, however, was not a fan of his gaming habits. She even once ended up throwing his X-box in the bin and snapping his headset because he played Fortnite too much. Jaden said that he was happy to show his mum that he wasn't wasting his time for eight hours a day when he was so successful at the World Cup.

Jaden's mum is not the only parent who feels this way. I spoke to the father of a gamer who said that his son's gaming habits had caused more fights in the family than anything else. This man also ended up throwing his son's

X-box in the bin because he felt the boy's gaming habits were obsessive and preventing him from doing the activities he normally loved.

His son ended up agreeing with his father's decision, saying that he felt much happier and sociable when he went back to his normal activities such as running and cycling. He did feel like he was missing out when he went back to school, though, because all his friends had been playing without him.

Despite parental angst, online gaming can be a very successful career. For example, Tyler Blevins, who is also known as 'Ninja', has a very popular gaming channel on YouTube and he earned £7.9 million in 2018 for playing video games. He has also made appearances on popular TV shows such as *The Ellen Show* and *The Tonight Show*. Despite his successful career, he did not qualify for the World Cup, although he did make an appearance in the celebrity pro-am contest.

Gaming has evolved a lot from the 1980s when the first-ever video gaming tournament was held. People can now play anytime, anywhere – games can be downloaded with the click of a button. But is this trend moving too fast for us to keep up with? And is it truly a useful hobby that can turn into a lifelong career? MAJA GRANTHAM





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Well Travelled Tees

Killearn 10k T-shirts left over from previous years of the race have been put to good use in Ethiopia.

Villagers and stalwart race supporters Nick and Jackie Hawkins took the shirts with them on a recent trip to Lalibela in the north of the country and distributed them to local children.

Read about their trip on pp 22–23.

Let's hope we see Mahalet, Getasew, Johannes, Cabrat, Mesfil or the others winning 10,000m races or marathons for their country at the 2028 Olympics.

DAVID MCKAY



My Year in Guyana

In August 2019, I left Scotland to spend a year teaching in Guyana and it was quite simply the best experience of my life. I'd spent well over a year already preparing for this adventure – receiving teacher training and fundraising the intimidating £6,200 required – but the date of departure eventually arrived and I finally set off. Guyana is a small Caribbean country in the north of the South American continent, and I went with Project Trust, an organisation which specialises in sending school leavers off to work at voluntary placements all around the world. Twelve of us flew out together, eventually splitting into our pairs and making our way to the projects where we had been placed throughout the country. My partner and I were situated in the village of Matthew's Ridge, a small town right in the heart of the rainforest.

It really didn't take us long to learn how incredible living in this place is. We landed on the dirt runway after an hour of flying over thick jungle and were driven to our house in a car with smashed windows and a door that didn't work. The roads were laughable, our house was insect-infested and had walls covered in bat poo, and we shared our garden with the village's free-roaming cows – but we would quickly adjust and come to see all of this as our home.



As exciting as all this was, I was in Guyana to teach. This was quite the challenge, and having only received a couple of days training, my only option was learning on the job. I was an official teacher at the school. This meant full classes of my own, planning the syllabuses, and writing and marking their assessments. School was tough at times, be it the huge lack of resources, the heat or the noisy children, but it was a positive challenge and taught me so much.

After teaching effectively, another big focus for Project Trust volunteers is to become integrated in our communities, and this couldn't have been any easier for us. The Guyanese are easily some of the most welcoming I've ever met – be it the enthusiastic staff at the school, the frustrating but unique pupils we taught, the Aunties in the village who constantly checked up on us, or our friends who'd take us on quad bike trips at weekends. Their generosity and attitude genuinely have given me a new outlook on life. Poor health in the middle of the year meant that I had to come home to Scotland for a little while, but fortunately I was able to return and was treated as if I had never left.

My year in Guyana was the best of my life, and I would recommend something similar to anyone who has the opportunity. I also need to thank everyone who supported me before and during the year, in particular the Killearn Trust, who made a very generous donation to my fundraising.

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Bridge by Zorro

We've seen before the importance of deciding a line of play as Declarer, but this is equally true when defending. Can we, as Defenders, identify how Declarer might be making their plan, and how we might thwart it?

On this hand from the London Teams Championship in 1969, the contract of 4♠ appeared doomed due to the bad trump break.

As Defenders though can you spot, and avoid the wrong early discard that enabled this Declarer to make their contract?

On the hands on the right, the bidding went:

S	W	N	E
		1H	–
1S	–	1NT	–
3D	–	4S	–

North, with their hand containing 14 high-card points plus a ten, felt just too strong for a weak No Trump opening bid. After the rebid, South must insist on a game contract and the force in Diamonds was aimed at getting a Spade preference.

West led ♣9 taken with ♣K. South next led ♠3 to ♠K, and returned ♠4. East now has to make a discard.

Dealer: North East/West Vulnerable

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

What should it be? See page 35 to discover whether you made the right choice.

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Three Generations – Cean, Iain, Celeste, Stuart, Eric, Cyra

C Lyons Fresh Fish was established on 3 August 2019 when Celeste Lyons with her husband, Iain, took over the business from her brother, Stuart.

Stuart and his wife, Audrey, ran their own business for 35 years. He supplied fish in the Killearn area for over 18 years, even managing the journey when the snow was so bad, he witnessed a passer-by on skis! Stuart was helped on the van round by the late Wilma, who became a firm favourite with many customers. The round is currently served by Andy, who is in the village every Wednesday.

Although Celeste only took over in August, she has many years of experience, having been in the fish business since she was a bairn. Stuart and Celeste's parents set up their own retail fish business, E.D. & J. Scotts, in 1965. Their dad, Eric, was telling them only this week that his sales in the very beginning were £9 daily on a good day and only £4 on a poor one.

Celeste has worked full time in the fish industry since her teens, only having a few months off to have her two daughters, Cean and Cyra. They have also joined in the family business, making them the third generation.

Killearn Safari Park

The house in Main Street where we now live had been uninhabited for almost a year before we moved in, and as a result it had been taken over by hordes of wild creatures. Whether they considered themselves ‘squatters’ or ‘rough sleepers’, the fact was that they had made the house their home and they seemed to resent our intrusion and our disturbance to their ways of life. It was a long time before they packed up and moved elsewhere.

There were Pipistrelle bats roosting in the cavity walls of two of the bedrooms, which meant that anyone attempting to sleep there was kept awake from dusk to dawn by a cacophony of flapping, squeaking, whistling and shuffling. Often they would find their way into the main part of the house. In the evening, we would meet them flitting happily along the upstairs landing or in our bedroom, clinging to and swinging from the curtains.

Mice were a huge problem, made more so by my aversion to mousetraps. I finally relented and bought two ‘humane’ traps from the pet shop in Milngavie. These were incredibly expensive, very roomy and comfortable, and resembled a pair of miniature Dormobiles. Every evening we generously baited the camper vans with the Co-op’s best quality cheddar. In the morning, we would find two well-fed mice waiting nonchalantly to be released into the garden. The Master of the House swore that he recognised the same pair waiting to be let out for a day of fun before coming back inside for their cheesy supper.

I had always thought that it would be fun to keep hens. I could imagine myself collecting a basketful of warm

brown or speckled eggs, which we would then eat for breakfast. I had not planned to have a cockerel. However, a friend with a surplus of cockerels smuggled one into our henhouse, and this noisy creature then took charge of his harem, proceeded to lead them all over the garden and, if we left the back door open, into the kitchen, where they would leave the most indescribably disgusting messes. I suppose that was their notion of being free-range.

However, the most dramatic incursion of wildlife occurred one cold winter afternoon. I had just lit the sitting room fire, a very artistic edifice of newspaper, twigs, sticks and dead leaves, and I stood watching with satisfaction as the smoke curled upwards. The tiny flames crept from the base of the pile, growing ever stronger as they licked their way through the paper and twigs.

Suddenly there was a loud whooshing and hissing as a curtain of soot flew out from the chimney opening and then a terrific thump as an enormous crow slid down the chimney and landed on top of the smoking pyre like Joan of Arc. The crow and I looked at each other. I could tell that he was thinking ‘Help!’ but I was thinking ‘If I pick you up I’ll be pecked to pieces’. The flames were growing stronger and I knew a decision had to be made. Worse still, I thought I could smell roasting crow, but maybe that was a bit fanciful.

Later, after a violent wrestling match with the overheated bird, I set off to the Health Centre to have my wounds dressed and to suffer a tetanus injection. As I walked down the drive, I could have sworn that I spotted my adversary high up in a tree. Cackling! CB

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What They Said About Killearn in the Past...

There have been many accounts written about Killearn over the years and what they say can bring alive aspects of the history of the village. Some are rather earnest or archaic, others are quite amusing, and several hold true to this day! Here is a small selection chosen for *Courier* readers' delectation and delight!

In 1902, *Buchanan's Popular Illustrated Guide to Strathendrick, Aberfoyle and District* described us thus:

'The village, about a mile from the station, and 16 miles from Glasgow by road, is built on rising ground, commanding an extensive prospect. At first sight it appears plain, irregularly built, quiet and dull, but a closer acquaintance reveals one of the sweetest and neatest of villages.

'There is little wonder that it is so popular among the well-to-do class as a summer resort. The village itself has an aspect of peace, repose, and rural simplicity, while the neighbourhood is most pleasing and picturesque, the surrounding hills supplying a never-failing source of attraction.

'The natives of Killearn are a lien and thrifty people, some think a trifle exclusive, attached to the village and parish, and possessing in a marked degree the old Scottish characteristic of independence.'

Are we still 'lien and thrifty... and a trifle exclusive'?

Further back, in 1845, the report of the village written by the Minister of Killearn, Rev. John Graham for the *Second Statistical Account*, focused on recording facts. He did, however, comment on the residents:

'The village is scattered and irregular; yet, as the generality of the inhabitants possess fixed property, they are free from the vices and vicissitudes of a manufacturing population.

'The character of the parishioners is decent and pious, occasioned mainly by the constant intercourse subsisting between householders and their domestics. Farmers, as well as villagers, sit in the same apartment with the inmates of their houses, and eat with them at the same table. Kindly feelings are thus generated between masters and servants; while the latter are prompted to diligence, and prevented from irregularity, by the presence of the former.... The parish, except in regard to education, may be said to be in a healthy state. A general spirit of improvement is promoted by the example and encouragement of the numerous resident heritors.'



Wedding outside the Black Bull in 1908

That describes the people of Killearn pretty well doesn't it?

Going further back still to 1795, one of the oldest and most detailed accounts was prepared by the Rev. David Ure for the *First Statistical Account of Scotland*. Ure

is best known as the 'Father of Scottish Palaeontology', having been the first to publish scientific accounts of Scottish fossils, and he employed a lavish style when recording the landscape of Killearn claiming,

'Few places in Scotland afford a greater diversity of the grand and picturesque scenes of nature, grouped together in such pleasing varieties.'

He was an early fan of Finnoch Glen, as we now know it, and regarding the Place of Killearn, once the village's grandest house, but now vanished without trace in what is simply 'the cow field', he wrote:

'The present edifice, which is far from being large, was built in the year 1688. Numerous plantations, regularly disposed in form of clumps, belts, and wildernesses, beautify, and shelter an extensive tract of pleasure ground round the house.'



Gilfillan's bakery

He had great respect for George Buchanan and gave a sympathetic account of John Napier, from Gartness, the renowned 17th-century mathematician who invented logarithms (the Napier family were large local landowners and after whom Napier Road is named). He suggested the locals were too busy to visit the pubs:

‘By a community so actively employed, little time is wasted in idleness, intemperance, or political cabals. There are, however, five public houses in the parish, but they are chiefly frequented by travellers.’

Is any of this still true today, we wonder?

Both the *First Statistical Account* and the *Second Statistical Account* have been scanned, and the texts are freely available at <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>, the website of the Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online.

NH

KILLEARN HERITAGE TRAIL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

- 🕒 Excavation of the ‘Laird’s House’ in Killearn Glen – undertaken in August last year – final report now available
- 🕒 Heritage Trail route being finalised and interpretation boards being commissioned for completion by the summer of this year
- 🕒 Website being developed and populated for launch by this summer
- 🕒 Learning Groups looking at ‘Memories of Killearn’ and ‘World War II’ now active – further groups looking at old houses in the parish; pubs in the village; and the origin of street names underway shortly

For further information on any of the above – or to get involved – please email heritage@kfcf.co.uk.

The Killearn Heritage Trail project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the *Killearn Courier* (KCFC Ltd.).



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Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

We may be able to build in other communities in the future – 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.

If you are interested in renting one of our properties when they become available please contact us:

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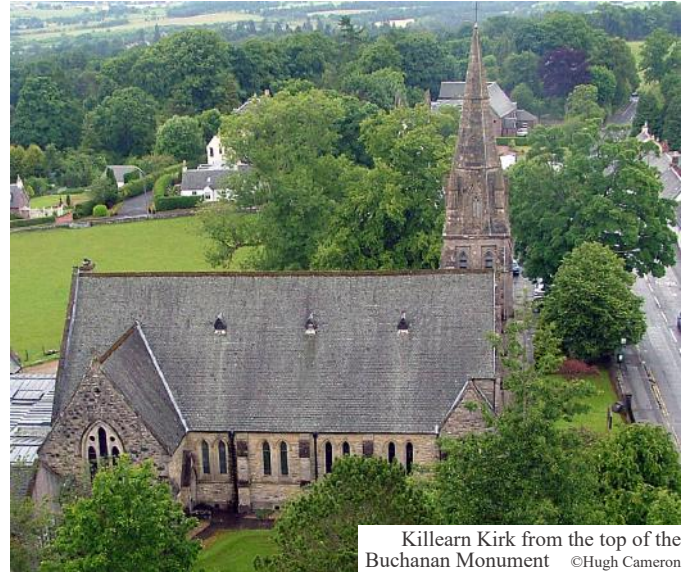
Blow Those Blues Away

Am I alone in thinking that this has been a particularly long and dull winter? At the time of writing, it is the end of January, so things may well have brightened up in February. But right now, it feels as though duvets of dark clouds have been sitting on the rooftops for months. We've had fewer than usual of the bright frosty days that cheer the spirits. The temperature has not yet dropped dramatically, but there has been the kind of bone-chill in the air that spreads depression.

As if that were not enough, the national and international news has been of the kind to make one entertain thoughts of euthanasia. At this time of year, we are at our lowest ebb physically, and do not need to hear of earthquake and pandemic infection. One can only admire professional cartoonists who must have to trawl through miles of dreariness to find something that will amuse us and lift us from our torpor. They deserve every penny they earn.

That said, there must surely be something we can celebrate. Those of us with a midwinter birthday can enjoy a spot of brightness in the gloom, but we must be in the minority. The people least affected by winter are, of course, the children. Perhaps we should take a lesson from the way they tear around the place enjoying life. When our family visit from the deep south, the first thing they do is head for the park. On their most recent visit, the new attractions were admired, climbed and conquered with great enthusiasm. And the zip wire is a perennial favourite. On any walk through the park when school is out, one can see village children scrambling up the climbing frames and swinging on the swings. They don't care two hoots about the weather, or indeed the international scene. Life for them is about enjoyment. And they're absolutely right.

The children might not be aware of it, but even on the dimmest day, we are surrounded by natural beauty. Not long after we moved to the village several decades ago, it was Killearn church service that was broadcast to the nation on Christmas morning. The then minister introduced the village by saying that we were known for



Killearn Kirk from the top of the Buchanan Monument ©Hugh Cameron

having the best view from our car park in the west of Scotland. There is probably no way of proving this, but it was a splendid opening gambit. In those days, churches were fuller than they are now, and, of course, folk were queuing in the aisles to be on telly on Christmas morning. Grandparents in deepest Kent could see their offspring and feel they were joining in the celebrations. There was a real feeling of happiness and togetherness about the whole thing.

No one expects Christmas cheer to last all winter, but there is in the church these days a very positive atmosphere. One may not automatically think of concepts like 'fun' and 'cheerfulness' in connection with the Church of Scotland, but it appears that this is what we have now in Killearn.

Along with the challenge of the message, there is a feeling of uplift and positivity that is most heartening. It is not in my remit, nor I imagine in that of the *Courier*, to proselytise, but a welcome is extended to anyone who fancies coming along of a Sunday. Bring your kids. They'll enjoy it.

In the meantime, the daffodils on my window sill are bursting with colour and scent. The mornings are lightening, and spring is on its way.

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Local Embroiderers to Host Scottish Regional Day

Two local branches of the Embroiderers' Guild will be hosting Scottish Regional Day on 25 April. Strathendrick and Kirkintilloch are hosting 'W(ay) O(ut) W(es)t' in the Albert Halls in Stirling for members of the Guild.

Regional Day represents a serious amount of planning for the Guild committees involved, of course, and some of it's even fun (measuring beads with melon ball scoops, anyone?). Everyone who attends on the day receives a 'party bag', in this case a tote bag full of all sorts of goodies dear to the heart of any textile artist. There is also a chance to take advantage of traders and booksellers who are keen to sell to the assembled embroiderers enjoying the day and coming from all over Scotland.

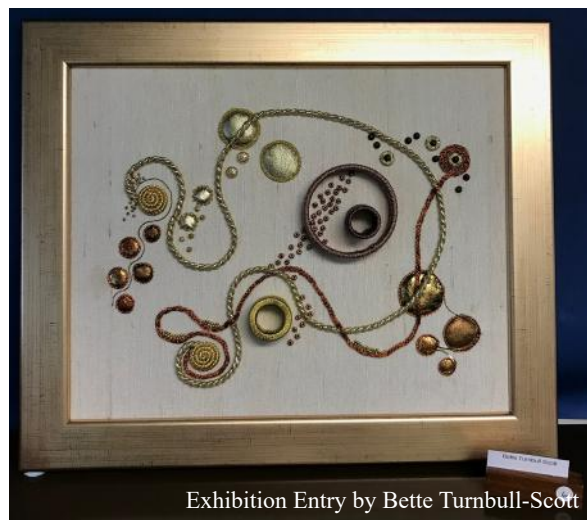
Regional Day is a wonderful way to meet new people and renew friendships made over the past years. It's a delight to be in such a wonderful space with so many like-minded women – and one or two men, too! The highlight of the day is undoubtedly the keynote speaker. Last year, we were whisked off to another world entirely by the fabulous stitchery and designs presented by Michele Carragher, creator of the stunning embroidery on costumes seen on *Game of Thrones*. She also brought samples we were able to examine closely, which was an unexpected pleasure.

This year there will be two speakers. Carole Coleman will undoubtedly intrigue us with 'New – Thoughts and Words', while Laura Edgar will tell us about 'Textiles – The Fabric of My Life'.

The Regional Day competition entries illustrating the 'W(ay) O(ut) W(es)t' theme are anticipated from every Scottish Guild branch, and Strathendrick organisers can hardly wait to see how many different and creative ways the theme has been interpreted by the Guild's talented stitchers. The prize for the winner offered by one of our sponsors (if last year was anything to go by) should be very handsome indeed. The hosts have also encouraged Scottish members Regional Day attendees to participate in the Guild Project for 2020: 'Mugshot Mosaics', a chance to create a small portrait using a host of skills and techniques, all contained in a 15cm square.

Strathendrick branch hasn't neglected its own local exhibition in Drymen Library, of course, which ran from 20 February to 10 March. And very successful it was, too. Guild members entered 36 exhibits which were placed around the library – mostly on top of bookshelves – to the enjoyment of users and passers-by. The Fabric Fun group of budding embroiderers did not disappoint, either. But whose piece was voted best exhibit by the public? Answers in the summer edition of the *Courier*.

One aspect of the Drymen exhibition often takes the public by surprise: the inclusion of work in progress – four items this year. Why? To encourage embroiderers to come along to the branch, of course. The Embroiderers' Guild isn't only for the technically proficient. It's for anyone who loves to pull fibre through cloth with a needle while spending time with other like-minded people.



Exhibition Entry by Bette Turnbull-Scott



Mugshot Mosaics: Image courtesy of Lyn Dunnachie

Do come along to a meeting of the Strathendrick branch – you'd be most welcome. Can't manage a daytime meeting? There are lively branches in Kirkintilloch, Glasgow and Stirling to choose from. Check the Guild website (embroiderersguild.com) for branches, and take a look at their Facebook and Instagram pages. You're bound to be inspired! NB

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Killlearn Youth Club Table Tennis Team Championship Success



Good coaching plus 10,000 hours versus raw Killlearn enthusiasm from seven Killlearn primary school kids and no coaching – we put it to the test!

Filled with some trepidation, yet tremendous optimism, Ollie Wilson, Lewis McGarry, Luke Nicholson and Murray Gibb entered the Under 12 Stirlingshire Championships while Magnus Falconer, Archie Skinner and Rafferty Wilson entered the Under 10 category.

From our perspective a little part of us was concerned about taking this plunge into the unknown. Most of our entrants had just taken up ping pong. Was this a step to far? Would we be responsible for crushing a young person's confidence? Once the forms had been entered there was no turning back. Mums and dads hurriedly shuffled their kids to the Village Hall after school for practise and tried to get them to Youth Club every Sunday. We had no coach and had to develop our own instinctive styles like 'giving our opponent the eye' and targeting our opponent's weaknesses.

Soon anxiety turned to optimism. Unbelievable progress was made, and once forehands and backhands had been mastered, serves were bettered and smashes became standard. I, for one, genuinely believed that we could bring silverware home to Killlearn!

Parents and one grandparent from every competitor watched open mouthed as white balls whizzed everywhere in the huge community hall of Grangemouth. We were pleased to have T-shirts proudly showing a united front behind the Killlearn Youth Club banner. We looked a professional, well-drilled outfit.

Presentation, however, can sometimes be a little misleading. It soon became apparent that not only had Killlearn's opposition been well coached, but they looked as if they had eaten well into the marathon 10,000 hours practise said to be required to become a champion. For a start, they served legally. For those not in the know (like me), this involves throwing the ball up before every serve. They also knew why bats or paddles (pro term) have different coloured rubbers (the red side is a bit faster and the black side is used for spin). Their serves were

slick and varied and they danced behind the baseline bouncing constantly on their toes. Surely navigating a route to the final was a mountain that could not be climbed...

Needless to say during several hours of needle-tight duelling and ping-pong purgatory, Team Killlearn played with real fire power and determination. They were gracious in defeat and all played magnificently. We also had some success, coming 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Under 10 category, and achieving runner up and semi-finalist in the more competitive Under 12 category.

Our conclusions from this foray? It definitely helps to put in the hours. The girl who won the Under 12s was a Chinese national and her mum is studying in Stirling. She allegedly practises four hours a day! Also coaching is a must, and we are working on this. Finally, congratulations to everyone, particularly Magnus and Murray for making it to the finals, and Ollie and Murray for being selected to represent Stirling in the national championships. As they say – nothing ventured, nothing gained.

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New Healthcare Hub for Killearn

January this year saw the return of healthcare amenities for the people of Killearn, Balfron and the local district. The new healthcare hub at Connected Health is located in Lumsdaine Hall, next to Killearn Pharmacy. The new multidisciplinary clinic hopes to offer a wide range of services to the local population.

The man behind the community project, Ciaran Canney MFPM RCPS, says, 'Access to healthcare has become harder for many people, and particularly so for those in rural areas. The Connected Health clinic is a collaboration of a variety of healthcare specialists bringing together talent and expertise to the central hub to serve the needs of those people who want timely access to care.'

Ciaran's background in healthcare services has seen him lead other clinics to award-winning status. He hopes that experience can give patients confidence in the excellent standards of care we can expect.

Ciaran says, 'At the moment we have services ranging from advanced podiatry and foot care, physiotherapy, osteopathy, massage therapy, audiology and hearing services, along with counselling and life coaching. Of course we are keen to continue to broaden our offering. For the time being, I believe this is a great start for the people of Killearn and surrounding areas to access quality healthcare services and to improve the quality of life for service users.'

More information about the connected health clinic can be found at www.connectedhealthclinic.co.uk.

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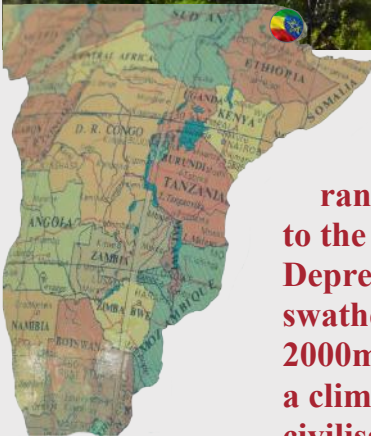


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Travelling across the Roof of Africa – and working with ‘the crazy Scottish lady’



Ethiopia is a unique and fascinating country. Its dramatic landscapes range from 4,000m high mountains to the desert wastelands of the Danakil Depression – 100m below sea level. But a swathe of the country is made up of the 2000m high Central Plateau, providing a climate that allows agriculture and civilisation to flourish.



We begin our sojourn in Addis Ababa, a typically busy, bustling modern capital, but the only city in Ethiopia of more than a million people: 85 per cent of the population are still subsistence farmers. Never colonised by European powers, Ethiopia is on the historic trading routes between the Nile, sub-Saharan Africa and Arabia. It has the source of the Blue Nile and is the cradle of humanity (Lucy, the 3.2 million-year-old hominoid, was discovered here).

The home of several ancient capitals, we visit Gonder, with its spectacular castle complex, and the monumental temple at Yeha, capital in the 7th century BC. Then on to Aksum (200 BC – AD 500) with its magnificent stone stelae, the home of the Ark of the Covenant and (or so Ethiopians believe) the Queen of Sheba’s palace. The intriguing, mysterious cave churches of Tigray, dating back to the 9th century, provide the artistic, cultural and architectural link with those of our final destination, Lalibela.

Lalibela, a modest town sitting on a ridge 2600 metres up in rugged mountains, is home to the most extraordinary man-made structures we had ever seen. In the 12–13th centuries, a series of churches were hewn out of the base rock. Most were not carved into the hillside, but quarried downwards from ground level. Starting with a moat and then shaping doors and windows into the remaining rock plinth, the naves and chapels were hollowed out, and they retain the columns, walls and roofs and every last detail (decoration, water spouts, window lattices and so on). They are a marvel of design, surveying and craftsmanship from almost a thousand years ago.

Once the country’s capital, to this day Lalibela is still a thriving, vibrant centre of Orthodox Christian faith and worship. Most people in this part of the world are deeply devout and their beliefs govern every aspect of life, from mesmerising all-night masses to frequent saints’ days and weekly fasting.



Images cl
Ber
ET
St George’s



It was in Lalibela that we came to stay with our remarkable host, Susan Aitchison, an extraordinary woman with a fascinating story. Originally from Glasgow, Susan was a career-long domestic science teacher in Glasgow FE colleges and nearing retirement when she was enticed by a friend to help set up a school in rural, remote Ethiopia, a country she had never even previously visited.

During this two-year project, Susan met Habtamu, an aspiring young local entrepreneur, and together they devised a plan. An utterly extraordinary plan. They commissioned and, over a three-year period, built on a ridge on the outskirts of the town the most outrageous and inspired mountain-top restaurant that looks like something straight out of science fiction.

Having invested over half a million pounds between them, Susan and Habtamu proceeded to develop the Ben Abeba restaurant, one of the most famous and popular eateries in the country, offering a Scottish Ethiopian fusion menu with items such as shepherd's pie with shiro (chick pea powder mixed with Ethiopian spice).

Twelve years on from her introduction to the country and the people she has fallen in love with – Susan, 'the Scottish lady' to the locals – is ever-present in Ben Abeba for nine months a year, welcoming guests and training, chivvying and encouraging her 50 staff. During the rainy season she returns to Hamilton to touch base with her friends and family – and to play bridge.

As if life for this wonderful eccentric septuagenarian wasn't full enough, in this poor country with many destitute young people, Susan has started a scholarship fund that supports 40 to 50 young people through their education. This enables them to stay in secondary school and also facilitates the more able to go on to university. It was to these

young people that we came to teach English – and, in no time at all, their brothers, sisters and friends!

We held daily classes in a wonderful outdoor classroom situated on the mountainside below Ben Abeba. We talked about going to market, shopping, school, family life, beliefs, ambitions and dreams; we practised our nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs – learning through play, mime and song. Some of the children were hungry to learn, while others were more interested in acquiring pens.

Jackie coached some of the older boys after class and they wanted to teach her Amharic. Every afternoon a charming group of girls wanted to perform their latest song or dance for Nick. We quickly became attached to these lovely young people who have so little, but were so appreciative of our teaching. At the end of a delightful couple of weeks it was difficult to bid them farewell.

Susan was recently featured in a Ben Fogle documentary, *New Lives in the Wild*, on Channel 5. It's available on My5 if you would like to see more of 'the crazy, Scottish lady's' story. For more information on her work with young people, search 'Susan Aitchison Scholarshipfund' or email us (nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com or jacquelinehawkins@yahoo.co.uk). To find out more about our travels, search 'jacandnick blogspot'.

NH

Images:

Top left: Scholarship Fund girls (viewing a video of their dance)

Top right: Our outdoor classroom
Lower right: Susan Aitchison with Scholarship Fund student Johannes

clockwise from top:
Ben Abeba restaurant
Ethiopian landscape
rock hewn church

From the Archive – World War II Prisoner of War Camp

How many of you, when travelling from Killearn towards Glasgow, have paid much attention to the site at the top of Drumbeg Loan, on which a new house is being built? Some older residents do remember a lot of concrete being removed before the previous house was erected.

The painting shown below, shows the site during World War II, when it was occupied by a prisoner of war camp.



- 1&2 Prisoners' living huts
- 3 Guards' and prisoners' ablutions and latrines
- 4 Cook house
- 5 Dining and recreation area
- 6 Guards' living and dining, etc
- 7 Fuel

The site is not listed as an official POW camp, but we know from Stirling Council records that the Ministry of Defence submitted plans

in March 1943 which were approved in July. The plans are available online – search 'prisoner-war-camp-killearn'. The plan is a standard one, but the actual layout varied depending on the lie of the land.

The plans state that 28 prisoners could be accommodated in each of the two huts, so there would have been around 50 prisoners plus guards.

The first prisoners were Italians. Some time after the surrender of Italy in late 1943, the Italians were repatriated and German POWs replaced them. The German prisoners were not repatriated until the end of 1947, after which the camp was used for European Displaced Persons.

We were contacted by Christopher Mills, the son of the Camp Commander Sergeant Ernest Mills, who visited the camp as a child and has sent us photographs. Sergeant Mills was a gardener by profession and the camp used to win prizes for being the best kept in the district.

The Italians, who were good with their hands, built a fountain with



Sgt Mills with Italian POWs' fountain



Sgt Mills with camp in the background

posts and chains made of cut-up cans. They also made toys and other small items. The German prisoners were also good with their hands and made some wonderful toys from wood.

Christopher also remembered going in the camp lorry with his sister and the POWs to a POW camp concert in Denny.

All Killearn Archive has also been contacted by Gunnar Janssen from the north of Germany. His father, Freddie, was a POW at Killearn from 1946 to the end of 1947. He was living away from the camp, working on the farm of Robert Steel, Sr. This was common after hostilities ceased, as around half the total German POWs of 338,000 worked in agriculture.

The camp was demolished sometime after its closure in 1950. The concrete bases remained and were visible on a later aerial photograph, a copy of which is preserved in the archive.

We apologise to the owner of the painting for reproducing it without permission, but we do not know who owns it. It was for sale a few years ago in the antique shop at Ward Toll, wrongly identified as Killearn Hospital. The Archive Group would very much like to see the original painting, if that were possible.

[The *Courier* would be happy to give the appropriate credit in a future issue. Ed.]

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE



Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament

For Mid-Scotland and Fife

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Police Beat

From a policing perspective the winter (so far) has been remarkably quiet. The weather has been relatively benign, meaning we have had few issues on the roads and although the Christmas period often sees an increase, there has been very little crime reported.

The only crime reported in the Killearn area over the four months to the end of January all occurred in mid October. This included the theft of a vehicle from the area of the Oakwood Garden Centre, the theft of scaffolding from a building site on the A875 between Killearn and Glengoyne Distillery and the theft of a vehicle from Aitken Street in the centre of the village.

It's worth mentioning that if you are a resident of the new McTaggart and Mickel site off Station Road, please be mindful of where you are leaving keys. The vehicle theft from Aitken Street occurred as a result of the thief fishing for the keys through the letterbox. The design of the front doors on these properties affords a good view into the property enabling crimes such as these to occur.

Residents in the new estate may be aware of police vehicles driving around the street late at night. Be assured we are not there in response to calls from the public – rather we are just keeping an eye on things.

Another issue which came to our attention in November were complaints about fireworks being set off in the street. This prompted many residents of the village to contact the police. Whilst on the night of the

annual fireworks display the village was busy with youths (as it is every year), there was little evidence that youngsters were setting off the industrial-sized fireworks which were heard throughout the village. Complaints were still being received about fireworks as late as 3.30am after the display. This was long after the streets had cleared and all the youths had left the village.

A number of extra police officers were in the village late into the night of 2/3 November and while the streets were quiet later on, we were aware of a number of house parties in the various estates. I suspect many of the louder bangs that night originated from the private parties.

This will be my last contribution to the *Courier* as I will be leaving Police Scotland in April. I've had the pleasure of working in this community since 2002 including five years as your community cop. Killearn has strong community cohesion. It's always impressed me how much you care about your village and look out for each other. The cops at Balfron are aware of this, too, and are always looking to support you. I wish you all the very best of luck for the future.

DAVID McNALLY
BALFRON POLICE OFFICE



Fare Well, Police Sergeant David McNally



David McNally came to Balfron Police Office as a constable in 2002 and since then, with a short break on promotion to Dunblane before returning to Balfron, has looked after Killearn.

He involved himself with the Community

Council and the Primary School as well as other areas of the Village. His easy-going manner made him very approachable and this, coupled with an abundance of common sense, made him an ideal Community Officer.

He retires from Police Scotland in April this year and we wish him all the best in his retirement, coupled with a big thank you for his attention to Killearn over the years.

THE EDITOR

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Fibre Broadband Update

At the time of writing, there is not much to report for Killearn, although some further hidden infrastructure work has been going on. The fifth fibre cabinet, on Drumbeg Loan, is now live, but it's not currently available to all premises. Some BT customers who have access to an FTTC fibre-based connection will be pro-actively switched over to the fibre service, automatically, and without charge. The reason given is: 'We want to give all our customers the best broadband possible.'

The initial Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) upgrade programme is now nearing its end, having been extended twice due to better than expected take up. Its replacement, called R100, will be starting soon, but its original timescale of completion by the end of 2021 will not now be achieved. It is now scheduled for completion by 2023.

In the contract covering Central Scotland, of the eligible 55,000 premises, R100 is expected to reach at least 47,000 premises and it is anticipated that around half will be reached by the end of 2021, with the majority completed by the end of 2023. The vast majority of this build in Central Scotland, is expected to deliver full fibre technology – or FTTP (Fibre to the Premises). This will provide access to gigabit-capable speeds – not just 30 Mbps but 1000 Mbps. This suggests that the remaining 13 per cent, and the minority not being provided with

FTTP, will either be using additional FTTC, mobile broadband, or satellite connections.

It was long recognised that some premises would be beyond the reach of the R100 contract for technical reasons and that these would have to be connected in some other way. This has been termed 'aligned intervention'. To address this, the Scottish Government will provide a voucher scheme. Anyone who will not be able to access superfast broadband through the R100 programme by the end of 2021 – even if R100 will ultimately reach them – will also be eligible for the voucher scheme. The scheme will be available for customers in both business and domestic premises.

A monthly report on the progress of broadband improvement continues to be provided to Killearn Community Council and is also available from the KBG area of the KCC website (www.killearncc.org.uk).

The Digital Scotland WhereAndWhen website, or the BT Openreach version, will provide specific information for your own premises, and indicate what is planned over the coming months.

In the interim, the mobile 4G signal, though possibly needing an outside aerial, has already been adopted by those on the periphery of the village and has provided a very good service. It has the advantage of being immediately available and can also be terminated at short notice if another, better alternative becomes available.

DOUG ASHWORTH
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



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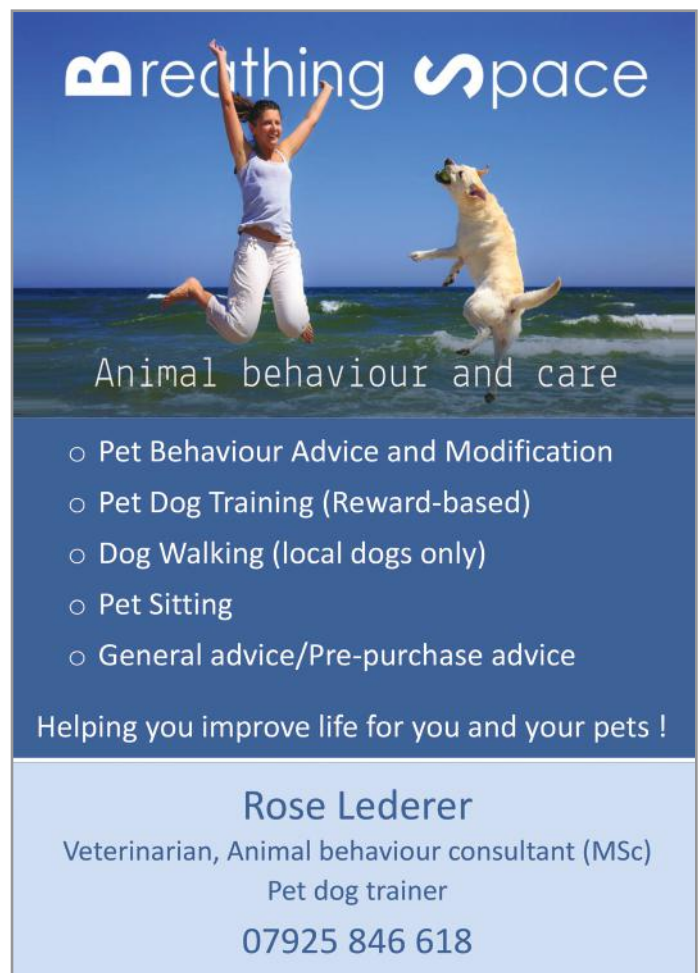
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Latest Scams

BBC's *Rip-Off Britain* continues to highlight telephone and email scams. They have a common theme of cold calling by phone or unexpected email. You should treat any cold call that tries to draw you into parting with personal information as suspicious. **JUST HANG UP.** Some fraudulent calls have even purportedly come from police officers. **DON'T GET TAKEN IN.** The police, the Council or your bank do not contact you this way. Ever.

Have you received an email, possibly even claiming to be from Royal Mail, asking you to rearrange a failed delivery? So many of us shop online and are expecting a genuine delivery, that such an email may appear genuine. **IT ISN'T!** Don't follow the link provided or call the number given. Just delete the email.

Have you received an email or cold call about Amazon Prime? In this case, they are trying to get you to download some investigative

software (possibly a genuine remote help product called TeamViewer, although this is not the only one). This software allows them to harvest information from your computer and potentially watch everything you do when you are online. **DON'T COOPERATE.** Hang up and delete the email.

A new scam called SIM-Swap is a form of identity fraud. The fraudsters request a change of provider for your phone number. If the mobile provider accepts the request as genuine, which they should always verify with you first, they send out a PAC-code, possibly with a One-Time-Password (OTP), too. This PAC-code is needed by the new mobile provider in order to move your number to their service. Typically folk ignore the message verifying the change of provider because they haven't requested it, but this is a big clue that a fraud is starting to take place.

If you get a message from your

provider about a change you haven't instigated, call them immediately. Otherwise the new provider will take over your number and disable your existing service. Imagine your number in the hands of the fraudster who can do whatever they want with it. They can get into your bank account since any confirmation necessary for that is going to the phone they now control. As the BBC programme showed, it can be a nightmare to sort out and, in some cases, takes weeks to resolve as you are no longer, strictly speaking, one of their customers.

It pays to be sceptical about unexpected emails and accepting cold calls.

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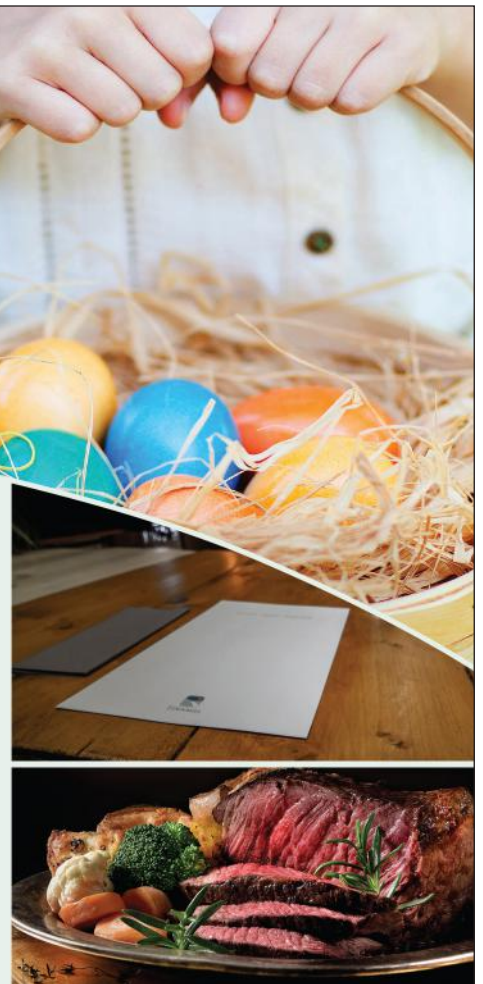


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Ask the Locals...

We asked four village locals six questions about themselves and living in Killearn.

PAMELA MAXWELL – OWNER, ENDRICK BLOOMS

New Year's Resolution: Same every year – to lose weight and I fail! However, they say the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Favourite village views:

When we were first married and moved to Oak Place the view from the bedroom window was stunning. Watching the sun rise over Dumgoyne, it was the perfect setting for the music 'Morning' from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. The view from the dining room in our second Killearn home is my other favourite. We see a framed sliver of Loch Lomond and the main island. It is the most beautiful ever-changing picture in all weathers.

Best advice: To treat people as you would like to be treated. The world would be a better place!

Thoughts on Killearn Village: There are more people now, of course, but I love that. The closure of so many local amenities and businesses is very sad. I was



especially sad when Killearn Hospital closed as I did my basic nursing training and worked there for two years. It was the happiest place to work and no one – staff, visitors or patients – ever had a bad word to say about it. If we were working night duty we were bussed to Dalnair for peace and quiet and then bussed back at night for our shift. The hospital was split between orthopaedic, geriatric and neuro-surgical departments. Patients would be wheeled out onto the veranda in their beds and it was a real home from home for many long-termers. It was a very happy place to work.

Best memory of Killearn: We had only recently moved to Oak Place (it was newly built and still a mud track road). The first Hogmanay at the Bells, we heard a strange noise. Going out into the street we saw the Piper, Ian Sinclair, walking up and down playing to welcome all the residents in the new houses on their first village Hogmanay. What a wonderful welcome.

Favourite Book: *From Habbie to Jeely-Eater* by Ian Miller, which is his autobiography. Ian Miller is well known to many as minister in Bonhill. His sermons were renowned for their humour and wit. He also visited Balmoral (buy the book for that story). He was a charming, funny, kind friend for many years and his autobiography has me laughing from the first to last page.

PETE MORRISON – ARTIST AND MUSICIAN

New Year's Resolution: For our family in 2020, we like to re-evaluate our lives and set goals to be healthier and try to reduce our impact on the environment, particularly with regards to what we eat.

Favourite village walk/view: When we first came to Killearn we sat looking at the view over the Glebe towards Loch Lomond and Ben Lomond. That wonderful view played a big part in our decision to move here. One of the best walks and views is going up Dumgoyne and looking back, you can see so far over the beautiful countryside.

Best advice: Follow your heart. Too often we make decisions or take actions to please others or because it is what we perceive to be the 'right thing to do'. If you follow your heart, you will end up much happier.

Thoughts on Killearn Village: In an ideal world I would love to see more general public spaces. We love walking in the park and it would be great if there were more open places to sit and admire the views.

Favourites book, film or artwork: My favourite book is the Bible. Some people see the Bible as just a collection of stories, but I think God can speak to you out of it. My favourite book of the Bible is Psalms. My film choice

would be *Bullitt* with Steve McQueen, particularly for the car chases. Aside from films with cars, I love classic black-and-white films – they have such great style. I love to listen to songs to sing in church – Bethal Music. My favourite song is 'Reckless Love' (Cory Asbury). I write music in this genre for Glasgow Vineyard Church. I would choose Andrew Wyeth's painting 'Airborne' as my favourite. Some of his work has an uneasy feel, but this is a wonderful landscape.

Pete studied at Glasgow School of Art and works in mixed media, painting sea and landscapes. He has an exhibition at The Green Gallery, Buchlyvie, on 15 March and works with art4you Scotland at Oakwood. Visit www.journeybox.co.uk to hear music from Pete's band.



SUSIE HENDERSON – OWNER/MANAGER, OUR LITTLE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

New Year's Resolution:

We decided to take a more positive approach to resolutions. We aim to be more adventurous and have lots of fun as a family in 2020.

Favourite village walk/view:

My favourite walk would be along Ibert Road or across the water track which runs along the base of the Campsie Hills towards Strathblane. The best view is from the Village Hall and Church looking over the Glebe towards Loch Lomond.

Best advice: Always make sure to take time for yourself is one I feel is very important. Also a local friend, Scott MacColl, gave me great advice when we were starting up Our Little Outdoor Classroom in 2019. 'If starting a business was easy, everyone would do it – so stick at it.'

Thoughts on Killearn Village: I grew up in Killearn and



love being out in the countryside and enjoying the natural environment. We have seen the changes in the village – more houses and fewer shops, but the community remains the same. I was originally a geography teacher and saw the positivity of field trips on pupils' education and wellbeing. Our aim was to combine the benefits of learning and playing outdoors with the need for childcare in the village. Killearn is an ideal place for this, and for us as a family.

Best memory of Killearn: My husband, Ross and I were married and we christened both of our children, Olivia and Archie, in Killearn Kirk, so that holds lots of great memories for us. We married in June 2012 and in addition to local minister, Lee Messeder, Ross' cousin took part of the ceremony. It was a really special day.

Favourites book, film or artwork: My favourite book is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I studied this in English class and it was the first book that I really understood. My favourite film is *Sweet Home Alabama* (Reese Witherspoon) and worth a watch.

Susie Henderson opened Our Little Outdoor Classroom in June 2019 offering an after-school, holiday and breakfast club for ages 3 to 12. They hope to expand this year to create a Balforn High School pupils after school club.

TIM BROWN – MANAGING DIRECTOR, SCS FACILITIES INSTALLATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

New Year's Resolution: As suggested by my wife, Jennifer – try and be more romantic.

Best advice: Treat other people as you would like to be treated and remember that the people you meet on the way up are the ones you meet on the way back down.

Favourite village walk: Walking along the water track then taking the old farm track round the back of Dumgoyne heading towards Earl's Seat. It is only 2km from my house, but it feels like the back of beyond.

On a misty day all you can see is the tip of Ben Lomond.

Changes in Killearn: I cannot remember a time when houses were not being built in Killearn – most of the 'Trees' estate was fields when I was young. I think it is a shame when the some of the community events lack support. Events like the Hoolie raise funds for the village and bring the community together,

but they take a lot of work and organisation. It's great that the spin-offs from the Hoolie Day – the 10k, the Beerfest, and the Hoolie Dance continue. We brought back the Street Football last year and it would be great to have more like this.

Best Memory of Killearn: My best memory is of the opening parade of first Killearn Hoolie organised by my wife, Jennifer. The local Community Policeman, David McNally, accompanied Jennifer to

lead the procession to the Glebe, followed by Strathendrick Pipe Band, Strathendrick Classic Car Club and the Hoolie King and Queen. It was a fantastic sight and the whole village was buzzing.

Favourites book, film or artwork: Film: *The Shawshank Redemption* with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Art: Jolomo and Rod Lawson – distinctive, contemporary Scottish artists. Music: 'The Duelling Banjos' from the film *Deliverance*.



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At last the days are brightening up and we can start to look forward to being out in the sun and maybe enjoying the open road again in sunshine. During the winter months we've been mostly indoors, entertained by evening dinners, a quiz night and talks. Subjects have been as widespread as the idiosyncrasies, politics, technical tricks and gastronomic delights of working for the Renault F1 team; the life of Donald Healey, how he became a car manufacturer and the evolution of the Austin Healey; a slideshow about oils and lubrication; tales of working at Jaguar in the heady days of the mid 1950s and, in total contrast, the modern repair techniques used by Patons Accident Repair Centre of Glasgow in 2020!

Exceptions to armchair motoring have been a karting session at Scotkart in Clydebank in November and involvement in the Monte Carlo Heritage Rally Start from Glasgow's George Square on a very wet and windy January night. The Square was packed with 80 cars, some going all the way to Monte Carlo on a competitive basis, and some of us just going on more local heritage runs. Coming off the start ramp and setting off to cheers and encouraging waves was fun. However, we had waves of a different sort later on as we met lots of deep standing water – not just the back roads, but the main ones, too.


Still, it was an amazing experience, even for those of us who no longer want to test their driving skills to the limit – and we didn't even need to go to the French Alps!

The Club continues to grow and to reflect the change in membership, the more observant of you will notice the change of club name to include sports cars as well as classic saloons of an older vintage. We hope this will encourage more local folk to come along, perhaps as a guest to one of our events, and see more of what the Club is about.

Our summer programme includes Drive-it-Day on Sunday, 26 April, a two-night stay in Machrihanish to sample the delights of golf as well as motoring and fine dining, and our Car-BQ event that has proved very popular the last few years and lots of fun. Let's hope we're lucky with the weather again this year! We also have mystery lunch runs that are enjoyed by both the gourmets, and those intrigued by puzzles.

Our Club e-magazine, *Overdrive*, has now reached its 15th edition and recently published another special supplement focused on the Ariel motorcycle and the amazing Atom sports car. We can't compete with the *Courier*, of course, but it's a milestone that we're very proud of.

If you would like to joins us, either as owner or a guest, or as someone with an interest in the subject, please contact our Secretary for more details about membership and our forward programme. **DOUG ASHWORTH**



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Killearn Primary Fundraising Group News

Our Christmas Fair was a festive success, raising over £1,750. We had more than 22 stalls, which included art, pottery, crafts, toys, Christmas décor and gifts. Santa popped by and had a great welcome. Our thanks to Alan and Helen Watson for arranging the visit. Annika Tulloch from Town & Country baked a fabulous lemon cake for Guess the Weight (well done to winner Wendy Denton), our local Co-op supplied mince pies and the PTA made delicious mulled wine.

We would also like to thank Andy Roger and Cameron House on Loch Lomond for organising 'Twelve days of Cameron Christmas'. From a luxury spa day at the Carrick, a Segway experience, champagne cruise and golf, rugby and dining experiences, they provided some fabulous days and raised £800.

Other big news is the launch of our Weekly Bonus Ball Lottery. For only £1 a week you can win £25 plus two Lotto tickets and support your local primary school. We still have a few numbers available, so please get in touch if you would like to take part.

Banksy's PTA Fundraising Quiz was a fantastic evening. A new team have taken the trophy and are looking forward to defending it soon. Big thanks go to Colin Banks who makes this event so special and also to everyone who came along. We hope to have another in May or June, so look out for news on our Facebook page.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Burns Coffee Morning. Each year we are amazed by the talent of local children and parents. The variety of Scots poetry and song make a wonderful morning's entertainment.

Tennis Club News

The nights are fair stretchin', as the farmers say. And if you haven't been playing all through the winter like my intrepid (more daft, actually) doubles foursome has, we're hoping the coming of spring will persuade you to dig your racquet out of the back of the boot cupboard and come up to Killearn Tennis Club for a hit.

If you're new to the village, or just fancy a go, now is the best time of year to think about taking out a membership. It's great value, with subscription rates starting at a mere tenner for four- to eight-year-olds. Adult subs are just £110 for a full year, the whole family can join together for £220, and you get a cracking view of Dumgoyne. If you fancy it, download a form from our website at killearntennisclub.org.uk.

Come and have a try before you buy – it's only a



Testing the new playground equipment

We couldn't do this without the help every year from Mick MacNeil, and would like to express our thanks again both for his encouragement of the children and the musical accompaniment.

All the funds raised are used for educational and recreational facilities for Killearn Primary School. We hope that you might come along to one of our events even if you don't have children at the school. They are open to all and, along with raising money, our intention is to have a fun event.

Finally, we would like to thank all our helpers who bake, donate and help at events and are so generous in their support. You make the events so successful and enjoyable. Thank you so much also to Anna and Gordon Mair of woodforfuel.com who generously donated the woodchip for the new school play area, and to Heron House Nursery for their kind donation to our funds.

fiver in the honesty box to play as a visitor. There will be coaching sessions for the kids over the year, and adult coaching can also be arranged.

Friendly competition is also available for those members so inclined. The Club has entered a Ladies team in the Tennis Central Summer League, with matches on Tuesday evenings from April to June. Any ladies who would like to take part can contact Patsy Hutchison via the website or our Facebook page.

We're also hoping to offer team competition for gents. Come along to gents night on a Thursday and speak to David Fulton or Gavin Hutchison to find out more.

Visit killearntennisclub.org or our Facebook page to find out more about the Club. We look forward to seeing you this season.

DAVID MCKAY

Looking After Your Personal Fitness

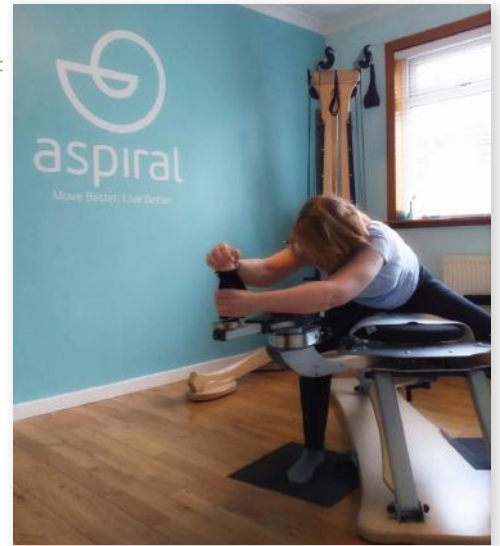
We all appreciate that exercise is as important as diet for a healthy lifestyle and well-being. But different forms of exercise suit different people. In the past two editions of the Courier, we have looked at local yoga and pilates groups as well as fitness classes and gyms, but some people prefer to do their own workout under the guidance of a qualified expert. Here we look at a selection of personal training instructors in the area who are recommended by clients.

All of the following PTIs are qualified to REPS Level 3 or above and most offer nutritional advice as part of their service. The benefit of using a personal trainer is that the prescribed regime is designed for the individual needs of the client. Many people find it highly motivational – if not cheap – to work with an expert practitioner on a regular basis, with agreed goals and targets.

In the village

Shona Nicolson operates Zest Fitness with a studio opening shortly at Westerton. Shona is qualified in circuit training, kettle bells and pre- and post-natal exercise. She uses both body weight and resistance techniques: **‘she has completely changed my attitude to health, nutrition and fitness... can’t recommend her highly enough’**. (Shona also operates ‘Mums on the Run’ and ‘Strong by Zumba’.)

Vivienne Anne Dow offers indoor or outdoor fitness sessions based on circuits routines tailored to clients’ needs: **‘a great outdoors workout, always with a giggle’**. (Viv also runs Bootcamps.)



A more specialist, but highly praised option, is Gyrotonic run by Lorna Pickford (see photo above). This discipline was originated for injury rehab by a professional dancer and employs a specialist pulley tower to do a whole range of circular fitness and strengthening exercises. Nigel Kelly is a great advocate: **‘without it, I wouldn’t be walking!’** he says.

Michelle Ironside operates at Studio 63 at Killearn Mill, and her services are enjoyed by many clients: **‘I love my PT sessions’**; **‘the only person that has ever been able to motivate me to keep fit’**.

Around the area

A strongly recommended instructor is Kerr McMillan at Aizle Active. Kerr is a self-professed hard taskmaster, but gets results whether that’s to **‘improve fitness, lose weight, tone up, build up, rehab a sports injury, shape up for a wedding or for postpartum reconditioning.’**

Another experienced and well-qualified instructor is Liz Ewing, pictured right using the gym at the Aizle, who specialises in weight training, ensuring clients use the right techniques and progress. **‘She really knows her stuff. Doesn’t take any prisoners, but that’s what you want.’** Liz is now developing online training.

Based at The Buchanan Arms in Drymen in the evenings and at weekends (because she is a PE teacher), Sarah Paterson’s sessions combine body weight and resistance techniques.

Allan Fleming offers small group strength and conditioning and body transformation sessions at the gym at Fintry Sports Club. He’s reported to be **‘a lovely guy and gets amazing results!’**



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Looking After Your Personal Fitness (continued)

Sarah Pagan works at Nuffield Health in Milngavie: ‘...using weights and various bodyweight exercises, my overall strength and fitness improved so much in a short space of time that I was able to perform exercises I would never have attempted on my own.’

No gain without pain

The cost of personal training sessions ranges from around £25 to £35 an hour. So whatever your needs, your strengths – or your weaknesses – there is someone out there for you. Don’t wait; have fun; get fit! NH

PERSONAL TRAINERS IN AND AROUND KILLEARN

Name	Base	Email/Facebook	Mobile
Vivienne Anne Dow	Vivitfit	@Viv-It-Fit	07583 946729
Liz Ewing	Aizle Active	@Liz-Ewing-Personal-Trainer	07779 784191
Allan Fleming	Fintry Sports Club	@allan.fleming.7	07881 816508
Michelle Ironside	Studio 63	@Studio63killearn	07961 722757
Kerr McMillan	Aizle Active	@aizle-active	07766 355378
Shona Nicolson	Zest Fitness	@zestfitnesstraining	07725 332893
Sarah Pagan	Nuffield Health	@nuffieldhealthmilngavie	0141 530 9884
Sarah Paterson	Buchanan Arms	sarah_rhian@hotmail.co.uk	07809 773893
Lorna Pickford	Aspiral Gyrotonic	@aspiralgyrotonic	07500 213473

Killearn Football Club



With the Forth and Endrick League being a summer league, you may think that there would be little to report at this time of year. Well, the team don’t down tools – they’re making sure we start the new season ready for the challenge. Every Wednesday night they can be found playing 6-a-side at Goals Football Complex in Drumchapel, keeping fit and sharp.

New players are always welcome. If you would like to join in or just find out more about the Club, please contact us on Facebook or call Colin (07500 912256) or James (07733 405386).

COLIN BANKS

Balforn Bowling Club

Before Killearn Hospital closed in 1972, it had a good-quality bowling green, the outline of which can still be seen from the road. Before that, the Wheatsheaf Inn, which occupied the site of what is now the Little Outdoor Classroom allegedly had its own green.

Our nearest bowling green is in Balforn. The club opened in 1913, with a clubhouse purchased from Killearn Golf Club in Gartness Road. Today, it has a large new pavilion, with excellent facilities and a licensed bar, which was built just after the Club’s 2013 centenary. The building can be hired by members and non-members for a variety of functions.

The Club welcomes bowlers and social members of all ages (current members range in age from teenagers to 90-plus). Whether you would like to try bowling for the first time or are a more experienced player, come along to our Opening Day on Saturday, 18 April, from 2pm–5pm, or our ‘Try Bowls’ morning at 10am on Sunday, 24 May. There is no charge to attend either of these events.

The Club runs a Community Café with a craft corner on Tuesdays from 2pm–4pm during the season when you can have a tea or coffee and a few ends of bowls, or just sit and chat and admire the views. For further information, contact Club President Craig Montgomerie (440421) or Club Secretary Martin Everett (550637).

MARTIN EVERETT

Out of the Starting Blocks!

Preparations for this year's Killearn 10k have got off to a cracking start. The race was a pre-Christmas sell-out for the first time ever. We were amazed by how quickly the places were snapped up. We're so grateful for the enthusiasm and support of our runners, and we can't wait to see you all on Saturday, 6 June.

If you missed out, don't despair. A limited number of additional places will be made available in the coming weeks. Watch for local announcements.

As well as the backing of our entrants, we're thrilled to have the support of the Killearn community as well as friends further afield, in the form of sponsorship and practical help. The race would not happen without it.

We're particularly delighted this year to welcome a new main sponsor. VSN Sport, Glasgow-based makers of bespoke sports and corporate wear, stepped up with a highly significant offer of support, and company owner Drew Campbell sealed the deal with 10k committee member Helen Banks. It's a game changer for us. We couldn't be happier to have VSN on board.

A big thank you also to our new supporters from the village, Turnip the Beet catering and Strathendrick Decorating and Plastering. They join a distinguished company which includes the Killearn Trust, Glengoyne Distillery, the Old Mill, Killearn Pharmacy, Three Sisters Bake, Killearn Co-op, art4you, Hewitt and Aker, Oakwood Garden Centre, 23rd Killearn Scouts and Cubs and 1st Killearn Brownies.

Thanks too, once again to Tunnocks, Barrs Soft Drinks, The Burnbrae Pub and Grill, Run 4 It and Active Stirling.

Beginner's Luck Guide for Non-Runners

At 51, I'd not run a 10k since my late 20s. I was back being a beginner despite having a few under my belt. The idea of running for more than five minutes was worthy of procrastination, so I wondered how on earth I was going to complete the Killearn 10k in June 2019.

This is a route that even ultra-runners told me is a tough one: 'It's too hilly for me.' However, determined to raise money for the Beatson, I signed up. They'd been so good to my dad before he left this planet that I felt, as many do, I needed to give something back. If you are not sure about how committed you'll be, ask people to donate their hard-earned cash and that'll do it.

By early March I'd started my training with the C25K app and Joe Willie whispering in my ear. Halfway through I was ready to move to the C210K app, but soon I was in need of some inspiration – some good tips. I'd have good days and bad. Days I sailed and days I felt like gravity had grown exponentially; the ground was drawing my body closer to the path like a gigantic magnet and telling me to 'lie down, just lie down!'



Helen Banks (Killearn 10k Committee)
with Drew Campbell (VSN Sport)

Our sponsors are indispensable, but the community contribution made by our merry band of marshals and race-day volunteers is every bit as important.

Marshalling is a great way for non-runners to get involved. If you're interested, contact Jill French via killearn10k.com, email info@killearn10k.com or leave us a Facebook message.

We'd particularly love to hear from anyone with an up-to-date first aid certificate who can serve as a first aider on the Pipe Track. Do get in touch via the website or Facebook. Professional first aid will be on hand in the park.

The Killearn Mile, open to all ages and abilities, will be run again this year before the 10k. It's a great way to introduce yourself to running or just have a bit of fun. Registration on the day, details nearer the time. It's always oversubscribed, so get there early to avoid disappointment.

DAVID MCKAY

So I turned to audiobooks, having finally sussed out that wearing my buff round my ears kept my headphones from falling out. On reading the title of this book I thought, 'That'll do me, I'm all of that.' It promised I would *Learn to Run from Scratch to 60 Minutes in 10 Weeks*.

It was written by a hardened runner, George Anderson, who'd been asked so many times for tips by beginners that he decided he had a book in him. He became my companion and coach, advising me to set goals of times not distances, enlightening me on things like the golden thread and the golden secret, teaching me how to breathe so I wasn't gasping and telling me what gear I needed. I was all set.

Worried I wouldn't complete the race, and despite pausing to post a pic of the 7k marker on my FB page, I finished! Under the glory of raising £1,200, I was cheered in by family, friends and 10k committee pals. Now a Marcothon finisher (running at least three miles or 25 minutes every day in December), I'll be back in June 2020.

JULIE MURRAY, 10K COMMITTEE MEMBER (2010–20)

Curling – Second Stones



The first half of the 2019/20 season brought some close finishes in keenly fought competitions.

The Main Club Autumn League was won by John Phillips' team of Stan Moore, Isabel Robertson and Paul Mosley who needed victory in their last match and to win 5 ends to beat Di Jackson's team.

The Ladies v Gents match was narrowly defended by the men. Prizes for the best Christmas costumes were awarded to John (Santa) Phillips and Di (Elf) Jackson with a team prize going to Mary Macdonald's team of Isabel Robertson, Rosemary Miller and Jean Verrall. We celebrated the result with mince pies and sandwiches in The Peak bar.

The Ladies Section played a triple round robin Peat Trophy league which was won in the last round on shot difference by Rita Harris' team of Luisella Mosley, Maureen Royston and Maureen Campbell from Gill Smith's team.

The Ladies Christmas Bonspiel was won by Penny Evans, Jane Weir and Rita Harris. There was also a competition for drawing nearest to the clottie dumpling and for the best jumper (Rita Harris). The following lunch at The Peak was enjoyed by the players and some of the retired members.

The Ladies Section have held their Pairs competition for the season. Heather Burns and Gail Pain tied on ends with Jean Verrall and Gill Smith, but the former pair's higher number of shots won them the Helen Loudon Quaichs.

The Club won the annual three-handed competition against Balfron and Fintry for the Ballikinrain Cup, having won both their matches by some margin.

Jane McLaren was a member of a Stirling team which was beaten in the final of the Scottish Senior Mixed Championship. Jane and Fiona Glass successfully defended their Stirling Area Ladies Pairs title.

Fiona has also had two other victories in Stirling: winning a mixed competition in a team including Helen Watson and Stan Moore, as well as a ladies competition in a team including Luisella Mosley.

On the social side, the annual meander round the village after New Year was the usual enjoyable event, despite the rain. However, it has been decided to make this the final meander after starting in the year 2000.

You can find the team members, scores and our programme of events at strathendrickcurling.org.uk. We're always looking for new members, so if you're looking for an activity to keep you busy during the winter months and have always fancied curling, please contact Di Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website.

GS

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Bridge by Zorro

Solution to the problem on page 12

At the table, East decided to discard ♥3 and South ducked to West's ♠10. We'll see in a moment the consequences of that choice by East. West then led another Club forcing out the Ace. South's prospects were now poor, being faced with losing two more trumps and probably a Club and also a Diamond into the bargain. As the fifth trick, South led the ♥6 to the ♥A and returned ♥5, ruffing East's ♥Q. Dummy was re-entered with ♦Q, from which ♥10 enabled South to ruff out East's ♥K. Declarer then led ♦3 to ♦A, followed by ♥J on which South discarded ♣5. Dummy's last Club was ruffed with ♠Q, providing the tenth trick.

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

Rugby Round-Up

The 2019/20 season has been extremely busy for Strathendrick Rugby Club, with hosts of activities at all ages, and – as with our national team in the Rugby World Cup and the Six Nations – some notable successes and some real ‘challenges’.

In collaboration with Balfron High School, the S2 – Under 18 teams competed creditably in the Barbarian Conference. The Under 16s won through to the semi-final of the National Schools Shield competition which was terrific. Former Balfron-Endrick player, Mikey Heron, has been selected by Scottish Rugby for a five-month MacPhail Rugby Scholarship to Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The Minis have gone from strength to strength in terms of both player numbers and the quality and number of coaches. They are looking forward to their phenomenal annual Charity Tournament on Sunday, 26 April at Fintry: do come along to support the hundreds of children enjoying their day in the sun.

The seniors, however, have had a more mixed year. Playing in Tennent’s West Region League 1, the 1st XV face some really tough



Strathendrick 1st XV in action against league leaders Kilmarnock. Image courtesy of Mike Bastock.

opposition and – despite some close results – were bottom of that league at Christmas. However they have since beaten close rivals and, hopefully, by the time the *Courier* is published, they will be clear of relegation. The 2nd XV on the other hand, with a mixture of experience and youth, have had a fantastic season – narrowly avoiding promotion and enjoying some great games along the way.

As the end of the season approaches, the Club looks forward to welcoming former Scottish Internationalist and Captain, Rob Wainwright, as speaker at its Annual Players’ Dinner on 9 May and the second Club Day (family Touch Rugby, Presidents vs 1st XV, Beer and Music Festival) on 16 May.

For further information visit www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc

NH

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On the Crest of a Wave

Two Killearn youngsters continue to show impressive form at sailing events around the UK and in Europe. Sailing as part of the RYA Scotland Elite squad during 2019, they (and their parents) clocked up huge mileage travelling to sailing venues in Portugal, Spain, France and Italy.

During 2019, Calum Bell (18) raced successfully in the 420 class (double-handed dinghy) with his sailing partner Calum Cook as part of the RYA UK Youth Squad. The British Youth Sailing Nationals took place at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy in April, where the boys finished the week in 10th place overall and retained the Clydesdale Bank Scottish Boys Trophy for the third year running.

The result also meant Team GBR selection for both World Championships in Portugal and European Championships in Spain. In Spain, Calum and his partner were delighted to finish the event as the top GBR boat. In August, he took part in the 29er Nationals in Wales and the European Championships at Lake Garda in Italy.

This year, Calum is concentrating on team racing at university and has been selected to be part of the British Keelboat Academy, taking part in training and events on the Solent.

Scott Forbes (16) enjoyed a successful 2019 racing in his Laser (single-handed dinghy). At the British Youth Sailing Nationals in April, Scott won the 4.7 event to take



Calum Bell in action
Image courtesy of RYA/Paul Wyeth

the title of UK National Champion. During the summer, he competed at Hyères in France in the European Championships, and immediately afterwards was lucky enough to train at Lake Garda in Italy.

Half way through the season, Scott transitioned into the Laser Radial fleet, and his first event was at the UK National Championships in Largs, where he finished in third place. Other trips have included the Irish Championships at Ballyholme and rounding off the year with the Christmas Regatta in Palamos, Spain. In 2020, Scott will continue sailing his Laser and is looking forward to the RYA Youth Championships in Wales, the European Championships in Ballyholme and the World Championships in Poland.

DOUGIE BELL

Sailing on Loch Ard

Why go sailing? Well, it's relaxing, not too strenuous, sociable and affordable. Sailing need not be expensive as second-hand boats can be found at very reasonable prices, and with most boats made of GRP (glass fibre reinforced plastic), maintenance is relatively easy.

Dinghies are easy to tow (or 'roof top'), so the possibilities of finding new sailing areas in Scotland are endless – inland or coastal. There are numerous clubs you can join who are usually affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), and a simple search of their website (www.rya.org.uk/scotland) will give you all the information you need to find suitable sailing in the UK.

Loch Ard Sailing Club (affiliated to RYA Scotland) has been my club for over 30 years and I just like 'messaging about in a boat'. There is a regular racing calendar on Sundays from Easter to the end of October, but I prefer to just visit when conditions and family commitments allow. It is a beautiful and quiet location where club members can race, potter or just sit and enjoy the wonderful surroundings. Apart from the racing, there is a wide range of family-friendly events organised during the season where you will find that members are willing to share their own sailing experience. Although we are not an official 'training' club by RYA definition, nonetheless,



Image courtesy of LASC

we have a good training programme for young people and novice sailors alike, enabling those new to the sport to become proficient in a relatively short time.

For families, the loch is a good place to explore, with interesting inlets and islands (one of which is reputed to have a whisky still on it). I recommend a visit to the Information Centre in Aberfoyle, where you can pick up a map of the loch and surrounding area.

If you are interested but unsure of committing yourselves at this stage, then come along to our open day (RYA sponsored 'Discover Sailing' event) on Sunday, 24 May, from 1pm to 4pm. See for yourselves and give 'just messaging about in boats' a try. For more information, visit lochardsc.org.uk.

IAN WRIGHT

Stephen Ramsay Young 1956 – 2019

Stephen was born on 27 December 1956 to Margaret and Jack Young of Cambuslang. His sister Carol arrived a few years later and they enjoyed an idyllic childhood. Summer holidays were spent in Largs or St Andrews, where Stephen's love of golf developed as he followed in his father's footsteps.

Stephen joined Howden as an apprentice and went on to study for a BSc in mechanical engineering, graduating with an Honours degree. He then moved to Babcock and, after being made redundant from there, was quickly taken on by the company now known as Clyde Bergmann. He thrived in this company and travelled worldwide, his skills and experience in great demand.

He was highly regarded by workmates and clients alike.

Stephen met his wife, Jan Millar, in 1985 while out hillwalking, both being keen mountaineers, and a great friendship and loving partnership developed. They moved to Killlearn in 2001. Jan was a volunteer search and rescue dog handler and Stephen supported her fully by being a regular 'Dogs Body' – hiding on hillsides to enable search dogs' training. Indeed while studying for his second degree from the Open University much work was accomplished while being encamped in a bivouac bag or a snow hole.

Stephen's love of golf was legendary, and with a handicap at times of 4, he was a skilled player. He was a lifelong member of Kirkhill Golf Club, Cambuslang, and

for 30 summers played at Whiting Bay Golf Club, Isle of Arran.

In February 2019, Stephen underwent a major operation that was declared a cure. However, we had the devastating news a few months later that the cancer had recurred and, although treated with chemo and immuno therapies, proved to be resistant.

Throughout this year of invasive treatments and regular hospital appointments, Stephen remained stoical and courageous in spirit, latterly knowing that his plans for climbing Mt Toubkal, Morocco, and going to the Ryder Cup in 2020 were not going to be accomplished.

We are extremely grateful for the outstanding care and support received throughout 2019 from Gillian at Killlearn Pharmacy, Dr Simms, the District Nurses Team and, for Stephen's last 17 days, Strathcarron Hospice.

Stephen had 62 years of a wonderful life filled with adventures, great friendships, a loving family and a succession of mad collies. He was a loving and supportive husband to Jan who is heartbroken at losing him.

JM



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Robert James Newman 1949 – 2019

Robert Newman's sudden death in an accident in October was shocking to his family and many friends, accompanied by the realisation that the life of such a fit and energetic man could end so abruptly.

Robert was born, the youngest of three children, to Clifford and Winifred Newman in Nantwich, Cheshire. His interests led him to study chemistry at Manchester University where he enthusiastically pursued a social life as well as his studies and developed a life-long passion for Manchester United.

On graduating, his first job was as a chemist in Surrey. After a few years, and having met Sonia, he followed her to Spain and joined her in teaching English as a Foreign Language in Barcelona. The pair spent an exciting couple of years working, enjoying the sunshine and the Spanish way of life. On their return to the UK, Robert joined British Aerospace. He and Sonia married in 1977.

Their family soon grew with the arrival of Marigold and then Joseph. Robert then joined Philips as an electronics engineer and the family moved to Wiltshire, where Florence was born and the family settled happily. Changes within Philips gave Robert the opportunity to move to Scotland, and in 1987 the Newmans came to Killearn where, after a few years, the birth of Alice completed their family circle. Here, they quickly felt at home and enjoyed life in the village. With

the closure of Philips, Robert joined Prestwick Circuits, but following a further redundancy, he set himself up in a new career as a handyman, trading as Killearn Home Services. Always active, an experienced problem-solver and skilled at practical tasks, he was soon in demand.

When he retired, he retained his energy and kept busy with cooking, gardening and a variety of 'projects' in his garage. He took up golf more seriously, being a keen member of Balfon Golf Club and a life member of the Isle of Harris Golf Club. He and Sonia found a new joint activity in cycling and enjoyed many cycle tours in Scotland and in Europe.

As the years passed and the family grew up and married, a new generation of children arrived of whom Robert was very fond. His family was always central to his life and he leaves with them a store of happy memories of shared holidays and family visits. He will be remembered by them, as by his many friends, as a kind, conscientious and genial man who lived an active and fulfilled life.

BP



Rita Duncan 1918 – 2019

Rita, mother of Donald Duncan, lived for one hundred and one and a half years and through that long life saw many changes in the world around her and the way daily life is lived. She was a Yorkshire lass, a first child in a family of five, born in Barnsley to George and Nellie Brailsford. As a youngster she had a great love of swimming, for which she won many medals and trophies. Her first job on leaving school was in Woolworths, the high-street store that now exists only in memory.

When World War II broke out she enlisted in the WAAFs and was posted to Biggin Hill, where she worked on fixing radios for the aircraft. It was here that she met William Duncan, who was a member of the military police on the base. They courted for several years and married soon after the end of the war. William was from Alexandria and it was to the Vale of Leven that they returned and made their home, which was soon to include their son, Donald.

Over the years Rita worked on occasions in local shops, but for much of her life she personified the ideal housekeeper and homemaker, taking a pride in her home and maintaining the highest standards here and in her appearance, always being immaculately turned out and with an unerring sense of style. She clung to old values and ideals and her own way of doing things which was, in her eyes, the only 'proper' way. She kept in regular touch

with her two brothers, until they predeceased her, and her two sisters, who had moved to Canada. William died in the early '80s and she felt his loss keenly, but with the support of her family she came through this dark time.

The years progressed and Rita made the move from the Vale of Leven to Killearn to be nearer the family and took up residence at Abbeyfield House, where she settled well and enjoyed the companionship of the other residents. It also enabled her to have closer contact with Donald and Janet, and her granddaughter, Sarah, with whom she had a close relationship, as well as Sarah's husband, Liam, and her great-granddaughter, Millie.

Eventually, when a greater level of support was required, she moved to Blanefield Care Home. It was here that she celebrated her 100th birthday and here that her long life finally came to an end, leaving the memory of her strong personality with those whom she loved and who loved her.

BP



Talking about funeral planning

by Jamie Pearson funeral director

Not everyone likes to talk about their own funeral, however I've arranged funeral plans for many folk in Killearn and its surrounds and everyone seems relieved and happy that they have been able to state their wishes and organise their funeral the way they want it. Being involved in fulfilling their wishes, family members too comment on how happy they are knowing that they have carried out the funeral the way their loved one wanted it.

Planning ahead for your own funeral is a very good idea.

- For one you get to decide exactly what you would want:
 - whether it's a religious or non religious service for a burial or cremation;
 - or an environmental choice, taking advantage of the ground breaking woodland cemetery right on our very own doorstep.
- But perhaps more importantly it makes it so much easier for your family to know that they are carrying out your wishes.

I'm happy to visit and have a chat about your thoughts and ideas and go through all the options. It will give you the opportunity to discuss with a funeral director what you would want to happen and also get an idea of current costs. From our discussions I can make a record of your wishes that could be really helpful in the future.

My visit doesn't cost anything.

If you would like to fix the funeral cost for the future we can simply set up a pre-paid funeral plan with *Golden Charter funeral plans*. That also means that your family won't need to worry about paying the funeral bill.

Golden Charter funeral plans are one of the leading funeral plan companies, all funds are held in a secure trust fund and the funeral plan can be transferred to another funeral director if you move home or change your preference.

Jamie Pearson
funeral director

Fintry Manse, Kippen Road, Fintry
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www.jamiepearson.co.uk

Jay Ross Houghton 1934 – 2019

Jay Houghton left Killearn a few years ago, but for much of her life she was known to many as the popular and welcoming postmistress of Dumgoyne Post Office.

Jay was born in Inverness and spent her early years in Tain and Forfar and then, aged nine, moved with her parents and younger sister, Helen, to Garrowhill, Glasgow. On leaving school she went to the West of Scotland College, where she took a secretarial course and went from there to a secretarial post with the whisky company, James Sword & Son. She was also a trained singer and was often in demand to sing in concerts and at weddings. An avid supporter and member of the Girls' Guildry, Jay set up a new group in Barlanark and ran this for 14 years.

She married Bill Houghton in 1958 and they settled in Garrowhill and here their children – Derek, Val and Judith – were born. Always full of energy and enterprise, Jay set up a playgroup in her own home, baked pancakes and scones and charged one shilling for a session. When she had collected £5, she donated her takings to a local charity for those with learning difficulties. She continued this venture until, in 1971, the family moved to Killearn. Two years later she and Bill took over the Post Office at Dumgoyne, with Jay continuing to run this after Bill's death in 1990.

At the counter of Dumgoyne Post Office, customers could always be sure of a smiling welcome, efficient service and friendly conversation. The postmen were like a family surrounding Jay, and the same warm and helpful atmosphere was carried by them out into the community. Jay was the lynchpin of local postal services for over 40 years – and, through her personality, was a much-loved fixture in the village. How appropriate it was that, in July 2014, she was chosen to carry the baton of the Commonwealth Games through the village.

When declining health and loss of mobility dictated a move to a nursing home in Montrose to be closer to members of her own family, which now included her grandchildren, Ronan and Millie, Jay accepted the changes in her life with her customary resilience and positivity. She participated with enthusiasm in the stimulating activities within her new surroundings, took pleasure in the company of those around her and focused on the things she could still do without bemoaning those

abilities she had lost. She was full of joy and laughter up to her dying day. When the end came, it was sudden and unexpected.

She had a deep and constant love for her children and grandchildren, and was greatly loved by them. They miss her greatly, but she leaves with them the inspiration of her own life in which she was an ever-present beacon of affection and kindness, thoughtfulness for others and always full of optimism.

There will be a memorial service for Jay at Killearn Parish church on Saturday, 4 April at 10.30 am, followed by the interment of her ashes at the cemetery at 11.30 am then refreshments at the Church Hall. All welcome.

Her daughter, Judith, kindly asks those wishing to attend to contact her (email jude@cathkin.waitrose.com, phone 07709 998704 or by post Cathkin, Glenfarquhar Road, Auchenblae, Aberdeenshire AB30 1WU) to get an idea of numbers.

BP



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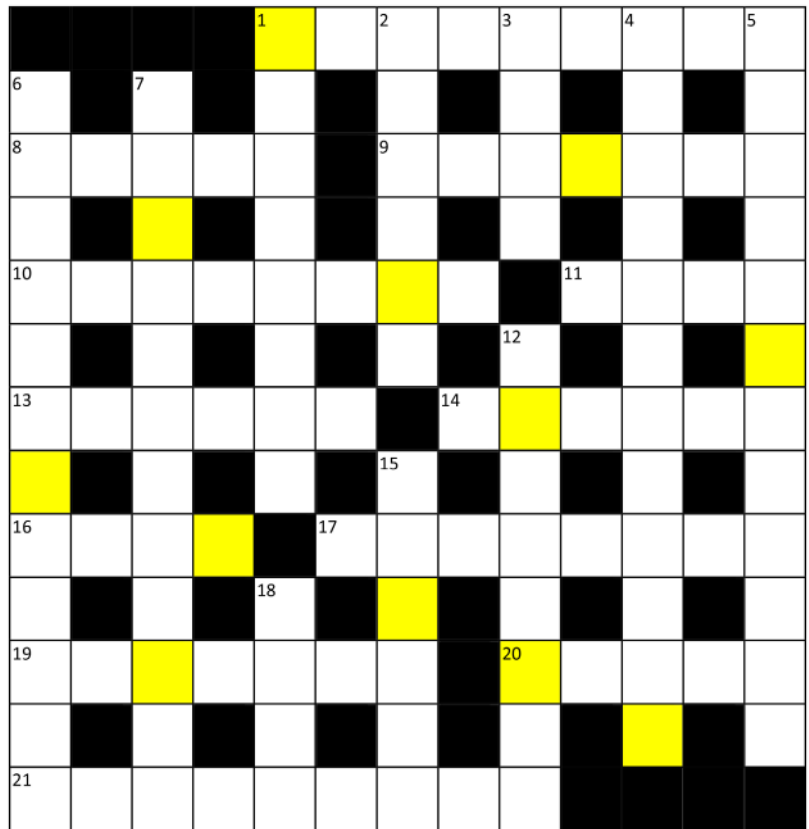
Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would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

ACROSS

- 1 Adonis now around in Wales (9)
- 8 Player found accountant back on hill (5)
- 9 Associate a bit before loveless emperor (7)
- 10 Thought about slim perfection (8)
- 11 Inside Twin Towers (4)
- 13 Sign that something unpleasant lost nothing at the start (6)
- 14 See 16
- 16, 14 Where to find banks that are bonny (4,6)
- 17 He worries warning is before time (8)
- 19 Praise letter returned after beginnings of a conscience (7)
- 20 Simple song without love, yes, begin again (5)
- 21 Scary situation could be sharp (5-4)

DOWN

- 1 Vestment sounds like it's not required (8)
- 2 Against informal friend needing direction (6)
- 3 Defy Dan, old comic character (4)
- 4 They are not together in some companies (3-9)
- 5 An ion indicator to cool indoor environment (12)
- 6 Leave car after grand horse race for protected open areas (8,4)
- 7 Cocci spotter looked around for bacteria (12)
- 12 Breakfast time in gaol (8)
- 15 Censured in unruly Bedlam (6)
- 18 Scandinavian great dog (4)



Winner of the last crossword: Priscilla Douglas, Killearn

The letters in the yellow squares make up a two-word anagram which combined with 16,14 across is in a 6 down. 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: 3 sugar; 4,1,27 two turtle doves; 7 immensely; 8 lasagne; 11 bird brain; 14,16,5 eight maids a-milking; 15 aggro; 24,26 pear tree; 25,28 calling birds. Down: 2 sings; 9 sedate; 10 German; 12 repairs; 13 Colditz; 17 deck; 19 orgy; 20,18,6 ten lords a-leaping; 21 cloutie; 22 limeade; 23 pew.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORDSEARCH

You should find 10 words in the word search grid that are places around Killearn.

Eight places are: *Arnprior, Blanefield, Drymen, Fintry, Gartmore, Gartocharn, Kippen, Milngavie*

Find the other two words, 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.



Winners of the last Children's Competition, a joint entry from Lachlan & Malcolm McLean, Killearn

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win. Place your solution(s) in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to competition@kfc.co.uk with your name, address and a contact phone number before **12 April 2020**.

Usher in the Spring

I write this on what is officially the most depressing day of the year, Blue Monday in January. Certainly it can be difficult to recall what spring and summer feel like while days are short, nights are long and winter retains its icy (or is it just wet and windy?) grip. As such we are often heartened by that single tell-tale sign that change is imminent. Such a portent may simply be a warmer day, a scent in the air, or a blackbird's explosive song – a jolting reminder that the seasons really do keep moving.

For me, one of the first indications of measurable shift is also the most aptly named: Spring Usher.

A local moth in Scotland, we are lucky enough to have it in Killearn where it is associated with oak trees. Around the same time, sometimes slightly earlier, emerges Early Moth, and, usually after Spring Usher has started to appear, March Moth also begins to show up. When it comes to insects, there's certainly a clue in a name! All three species, and some others that appear around this time, are especially interesting in that the females are flightless and have only vestigial wings. They barely look like moths at all.



Spring Usher

As we move into the warmer half of spring, another beastie named after the time of year makes its appearance: the May Bug pictured below. The proper name for this intimidating insect is the Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*) and it's not a true bug at all. It's a flying scarab beetle, the largest of its kind in Britain. You will, of course, be pleased to know that they are common in our neighbourhood, flying noisily, and often rather clumsily, around deciduous trees at night. Despite their rather fearsome appearance (which includes wild fan-shaped antennae and a non-stinging pointed tail), they are completely harmless.

Cockchafer are attracted to light, frequently banging into and bouncing off lit windows on warm May nights. Their very hard wing cases mean that such collisions don't go unnoticed – they are truly 'things that go bump in the night'! But these aerial attacks are surely a small price to pay for spring also being in the air.

MARTIN CULSHAW





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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15 August 2020.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 26 June. Contact:
Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 26 June. Please send them to:

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