



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 26

SUMMER 2013

£1



The Old School Transformed



The first phase of transforming the former Victorian school off Main Street into dwelling houses is now complete.

The original building is a handsome red sandstone structure, built towards the end of the nineteenth century. Robust in construction, it has 27-inch thick walls and lime mortaring between the stones. It had been not only a school but also a nursery school and leisure centre as well as hosting Strathendrick Singers' rehearsals and Guides of all ages during its long years of service to Killearn. Scouts met in their dedicated hall on the site. The Killearn Football team built changing rooms at the back of the building.

The Old School involved the developers, Scotus, owned by the local Dinardo family, in negotiations with the village and Stirling Council over several years following an unsuccessful attempt by KCFC to repurpose the building for community use. Initial controversies to do with aspects of the build, from the number of units, their quality and style, to ongoing and occasionally heated discussions regarding the vexed issue of access were eventually resolved. In fact, a new access point has been pushed out from the site to Main Street.

The Old School has two residential units tucked discreetly away behind the main street with views over open fields as well as to the Campsies.

Work began in mid 2011 and the objective was, in the words of the developer, 'To restore, refurbish and modernise the "Old School" so that its historic legacy, once saved and converted, would be put to good future use as residences.' Scotus have made every effort to retain as much as possible of the original structure, and hope that the village will be proud of the result.



A second phase is scheduled which will deal with the former Scout Hall and the rest of the site. A suitable use for the large Hall has yet to be found.

Former pupils of the school have been invited to view the new accommodation. Contact Scotus on 0141 843 4211 to arrange a viewing.

Killearn Courier
published by



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Winter edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 16 November 2013.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 4 October 2013. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 4 October 2013. Send them to:

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir

Few would argue that Killearn Kirk holds an important place in our community. As such doesn't it seem rather surprising that, when major property works are being considered, the Kirk appears to deliberately disregard local skills and expertise?

In late March, I was approached by a member of a Kirk committee alerting me to a forthcoming project – the resurfacing of the Church Hall car park – which he believed would lie in my company's sector of work. Despite several attempts on my part to obtain the appropriate tender documents from the Property Convenor, I was met with repeated resistance and was never given the necessary information. This remains the current position. I also requested a meeting with the civil engineer involved, but that, too, was ignored.

I am fully aware that when tendering for business there is absolutely no guarantee of a successful bid. Nor would I ever expect this. However, as a local company with a strong portfolio of directly relevant experience, the very least I would have expected from the parish Kirk was to have been given the opportunity to compete.

Sincerely
Scott MacColl
MacColl Landscaping

Family Notices

Since we started the *Courier* nearly 10 years ago, we have published many notices marking marriages and deaths. We rely on our readers to tell us about them.

We think we should also publish details of births in the Parish, and would be very pleased to receive such happy news along with details and an appropriate photograph.

Send them to the usual contacts here at the *Killearn Courier*.

All past editions of the *Courier* are available to view or download on the KCFC website:

www.kcfc.co.uk
and click the *Courier* tab

Cover Picture by Peter Wilks

Editorial

Welcome to our 2013 summer edition. As I write, it really is summer. I am sitting outside at the patio table, covered in lashings of suntan oil, working at my laptop. Couldn't do that last year (or the year before, come to think of it).

Anyway, by the time you read this, your refurbished Village Hall has been opened for nearly a month and what a hall it is. If you missed the opportunity of going along on the opening day, get yourself there when you can and be prepared to be very impressed. Enjoy a coffee on the balcony and appreciate the stunning views. There was a huge turn-out at the opening and everyone left captivated by the changes.

In this issue, you'll find a couple of pages entitled Situations Vacant. Many of our local organisations are struggling to keep going because of a reduction in membership for a variety of reasons. These organisations are the very fabric of our village, and the tireless contributions they make to our quality of life in Killearn is immeasurable but, dare I say, not greatly appreciated. Without them, Killearn would be a much poorer place to live.

Life has changed much in the last decade or so. People have more commitments and less free time. That said, why don't you contact an organisation that interests you and ask how much time you would need to devote to their activities? The answer will surprise you. Remember, nothing happens on its own; it takes people to make things happen and it is, after all, your village. Indeed, at the risk of labouring the point, just ask yourself this: 'what quality of life would I like to pass on to my children?'

Speaking of volunteers brings me to the people who deliver the Courier to your door. They are a very amenable bunch – so much so that they did an extra delivery of the Village Hall Opening Invitation Brochure. How's that for helping out?

Our advertisers continue to support us even in these trying times and we should, in turn, support them.

Anyway, I hope the sun is still shining as you read this and that you are sitting outside with a glass of your favourite tipple, enjoying this issue.

Ian Ian Dickie, Editor



- 19 Aug *Strathendrick Rotary Club* meeting. Black Bull, 6.30 for 7pm. Every Monday thereafter except bank holidays and the last Monday of a five Monday month.
- 26 Aug *Monday Music* autumn term starts. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166).
- 31 Aug *Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society* Show. Killearn Village Hall and Kirk Hall. Entries can be staged Friday 7.30 – 9pm or Saturday 7.30 – 10am. Doors open 2 – 4.30pm, prizes announced 2.30pm. For schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
- 2 Sept *Strathendrick Singers* rehearsals resume. Balfroon Church, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Ken Allen (550415). www.strathendricksingers.org.uk
- 5 Sept *Thursday Club* first meeting. Kirk Hall, 2pm and every Thursday thereafter. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).
- 7 Sept *Killearn Country Market*. Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
- 18 Sept *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 20 Sept *Killearn Golden Years Club* musical evening. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- 26 Sept *Drymen & District Local History Society*. www.drymen-history.org.uk
Talk by John Hood, 'Country Houses and Castles around Loch Lomond'.
Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm
- 30 Sept *Killearn Health Centre* OPEN on holiday Monday.
- 1 Oct *Guild* supper evening with Joyce and friends. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 5 Oct *Killearn Country Market*. Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
- 6 Oct *Killearn Kirk* Harvest Thanksgiving service (provisional date).
- 15 Oct *Guild* meeting. Jenny Wilks, 'With Great Pleasure'. Bring and Buy. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 23 Oct *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 2 Nov *Killearn Country Market*. Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
- 5 Nov *Guild* Open Evening. Guild Project – Passage from India. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 10 Nov *Killearn Kirk* Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45am.
- 19 Nov *Guild* meeting. The Ann Gloag Foundation. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 23 Nov *Guild* Sale of Work. Kirk Hall, 10.30am – 12.30pm.
- 28–30 Nov *FADs 'Aladdin'*. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs and Fri 7.30pm, and Sat. 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from Liz Brown (860078) or Killearn Pharmacy.
- 5 Dec *Guild* Christmas Evening – Anne Mackay. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 5–7 Dec *FADs 'Aladdin'*. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs and Fri 7.30pm, and Sat. 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from Liz Brown (860078) or Killearn Pharmacy.
- 7 Dec *Killearn Country Market*. Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).

*If you have any dates for the November 2013 issue
(mid November to mid March)
please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net*



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It's a stitch up

The Strathendrick Stitchers and the Campsie Stitchers have been working on the Great Tapestry of Scotland.

Dust has gone unchecked and long-suffering husbands and families have taken a back seat while the needle has reigned supreme. The Tapestry is a major undertaking with over 160 panels which together measure over 140 metres in length, depicting the story of Scotland's history. It is being stitched by around 1,000 stitchers from all over Scotland, and has taken thousands of hours and around 30 miles of woollen yarn to complete.

The Strathendrick Stitchers' panel features the poem *An Ataireachd Ard*. The panel is now full of waves, fishermen and wonderful wildlife, including dancing prawns and greylag geese – in honour of Glengoyne, 'the glen of the wild geese' – since this Embroiderer's Guild branch meets in Killearn. The centrepiece of the panel must be the wonderful musical woman. Lyn Dunachie, one of her creators, said, 'When I was stitching her there were lots of adverts (particularly in *The Scotsman!*) about DNA analysis – so she carries strands of double helix in her red hair. Her body – we can't tell whether it is a violin, viola or cello – is decorated with yellow flag or fleur de lys (reflecting the Auld Alliance), broom, common tormentil, lichen and serrated wrack (seaweed), all (except the seaweed) used in the Western Isles as dye plants for colouring tweed. The seaweed was used for fertilizer on "lazy beds" for growing potatoes.'

The Campsie Stitchers, meanwhile, have put the finishing touches on their panel, 'James Watt and the Steam Engine'. The piece now includes a unicorn, representing Glasgow University, as well as four famous Scots of the new industrial age: James Black, the discoverer of CO² and latent heat; Robert Stevenson the lighthouse designer; the engineer Thomas Telford; and William Murdoch, responsible



for many engineering designs, including the first reliable gas lamp for domestic use. This busy panel's main feature is, naturally, the beam engine with its innovative condenser vessels. This early model delivered the astonishing power of 35 horses working together, transforming the way ordinary people lived and worked.

The entire tapestry will be exhibited in the Scottish Parliament from 3–21 September this year. There are also plans to tour the

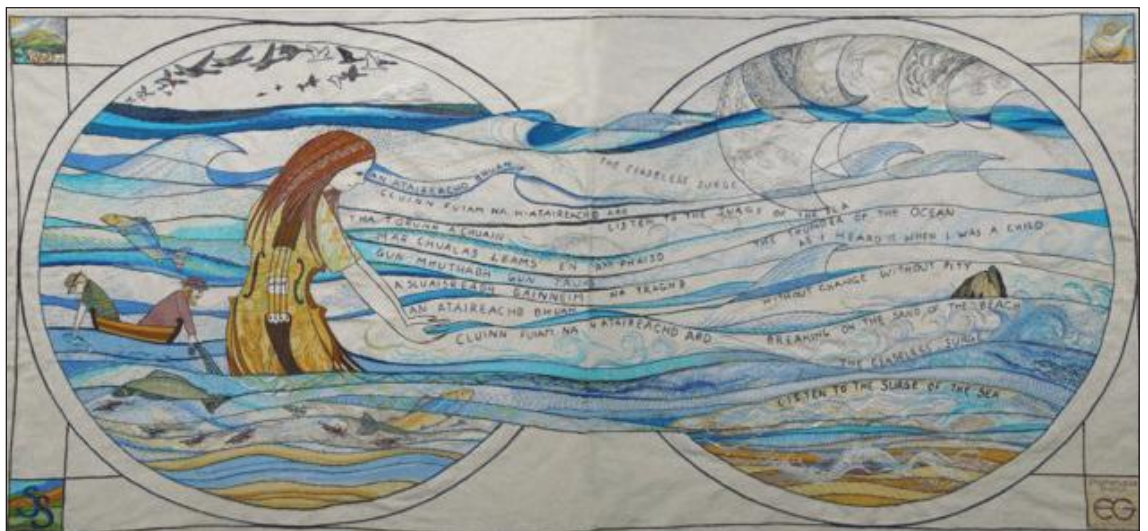
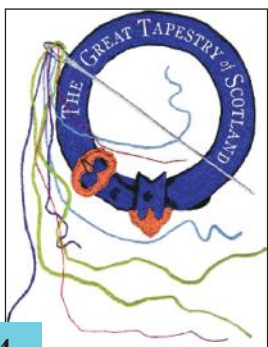
artwork and to find it a permanent home. A guidebook for the exhibition as well as a larger illustrated volume will be published by Birlinn Ltd this autumn. For more information:

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Great-Tapestry-of-Scotland/220105004748373.

Well done to all the talented stitchers throughout Scotland who have contributed to this historic piece. NB



(l to r): Heather Wright, Lyn Dunachie (Branch chairman), Margaret Burgess (who runs Young Embroiderers) and Bette Turnbull Scott (past Branch chairman).



Killearn Malawi Group

Knit one, purl one, knit as many as you can!



What do hats, jumpers, blankets and teddies have in common? The answer is the Killearn Malawi Group, which supports projects in Malawi. Last year in Ekwendeni hospital in Northern Malawi over 6,000 babies were born. Many of the mothers were so poor they had nothing to wrap their babies in. You might think that Malawi was a hot country and, indeed, in places it is. But the nights are cold in Livingstonia, which is 6,500ft above sea level, so there is an urgent need for blankets, baby jumpers and hats. The Killearn Friends of Malawi have been knitting furiously during our long cold winter to help meet that need. Many of the articles were on display at the recent AGM. For the first time the knitters came together, although one knitter in her mid nineties could not be there. Her speciality is teddies. In the last year she has made over 100 of them. Mrs Helen Faichney said she liked to make teddies as she watched television. 'The pattern is easy. I can make a teddy in an evening and stuff it the next day. I probably make three a week.'



You can also knit a hat in one evening. Jumpers take a bit longer depending on how fast you knit. Blankets take more effort, but find a few friends to knit blanket strips and you can whizz up one in no time. Or if your talent lies in crochet you can make cot blankets, too. There is also a need for larger jumpers and hats for teenagers. All knitted goods are boxed up and sent to Malawi in containers organised by the Raven Trust. For more information, click on:

www.theraventrust.org.

If you would like to contribute to the knitting effort, email June Thomas, Secretary of the Killearn Malawi Group, for the patterns:

jnethomas@aol.com or
contact Jenifer Barrett (550508).

Colourful Killearn

So beguiled are we by the bright, broad splash of colour painted by Spring across our landscape and gardens that we often neglect the exquisite detail hidden by even a short remove. Fortunate, then, that the volunteers of Colourful Killearn lift the flowers up to make it easy for you. Next time you pass one of our barrels in the village, take a few moments to look closer at the contents and admire the amazing revealed within the ordinary. Too late now for the dainty Tete-a-tete daffodils and the breath-taking purple velvet violas (pictured here) – they are gone, replaced with a red, blue and white confection of begonias and lobelia. So pause, lean forward and get an eyeful of the incredibly complex little blooms that mass together to light Killearn up with colour! Wouldn't the village be a dull place without these ebullient islands of flowers?

If you would like to spare a little time by volunteering to help in any way, please see our "situation vacant" on page 21.



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1970 MGB Mk II Roadster

The MGB had an 18-year production run and was regarded as the quintessentially British sports car. Announced in September 1962 (MGB celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2012) and with over half a million examples built, it became the most successful British sports car ever. A successor to the MGA had to be found



to compete with the much more up to date and spacious TR4 and Sunbeam Alpine. Project work on the MGB started as far back as 1958 and the biggest change was the incorporation of a monocoque shell which was both lighter and stronger, allowing the engineers to create more interior space. The styling was carried out by BMC's own designers, with the finishing touches by Pininfarina, the Italian styling house. The specification included a curved laminated windscreen, wind-up windows and swivelling quarter lights. The engine was an enlarged version of the 'B' series engine bored out to 1798cc driving the rear wheels via a live rear axle. The engines were all sprayed red in colour until 1971 which gave them a very sporting look under the bonnet. With twin SU carburettors this gave a power output of 95 bhp and a top speed of 103mph. The three bearing engine (to be replaced by 5 bearings in 1964) had a very distinctive note and produced a glorious sound – especially with the hood down and the foot hard on the throttle! The steering was rack and pinion giving great accuracy and the front suspension was independent with half-elliptic springs on the rear suitably dampened. Stopping was provided by powerful disc brakes on the front and drums on the rear.

Early models were fitted with a very basic self assembly hood which was later replaced with an easily operated foldaway version. The MGB was launched to great acclaim and *Motor*, *Autosport* and *Autocar* magazines published very positive and glowing road tests. The correspondent from *Autosport* in September 1962 summarised the car as follows: 'I am confident the MGB will prove to be a great favourite. There is always a steady market for sports cars, but this model with its good looks, high cruising speed, excellent road holding, low-noise level and ease of entry and exit – even with the hood up – could well appeal to a completely different class of buyer. Yes indeed: yet another winner from an already long line of thoroughbreds.' How true that assessment turned out to be!

There are currently four MGBs in the Strathendrick Classic and Sports Car Club, and this is a 1970 Mk II finished in Tartan Red with reclining black Ambla seats. This car has very smart knock off chrome wire wheels and is fitted with the optional overdrive unit operating on third and fourth gear for relaxed touring. This car is owned by one of the members and has appeared at many of the Club outings. The owner is very familiar with MGB having owned a new model in late 1962 and became re-acquainted with the marque in 1990 when this 1970 model, previously owned by a local doctor, was purchased. The Mk II

incorporates the first external changes made to the MGB since introduction where rubber inserts were incorporated on the front bumper overriders and the front chrome grille was dispensed with and replaced with a recessed version. In 1972 the traditional MG grille made its reappearance but instead of the vertical chrome slats there was a black mesh infill.

Many changes were made to the MGB, and in its final form it was fitted with polyurethane bumpers to comply with US safety regulations which detracted from the pure lines of the car. At the same time the suspension was raised to achieve the necessary bumper heights, which compromised the excellent handling of earlier models.

Many attractive variations of the MGB were made such as the MGB GT, styled by Pininfarina; the MGB GT V8; and the six cylinder MGC, which had a very short production run of two years. This is now a very collectable classic and, had BMH sorted out the design at the outset, this could have been a very successful model.

The last Abingdon MG left the production line on the 23 October 1980 and the MG factory was closed due to rationalisation within BL. The original factory site is now The Abingdon Works Centre, the home of the MG Car Club and the MG Museum.



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Strathendrick Classic Car Club

The Classic Car Club continues to attract new members not only from within Strathendrick but also from further afield. Membership now stands at over 40.

The widespread membership means that many do not have easy access to the *Courier*, so Mike Menzies, our enterprising committee member, has published the first edition of a club magazine on the internet called *Overdrive*.

Our annual two-day event continues to be a sell out. This year, 15 cars wended their way to the Wheatsheaf Hotel in Swinton in the Borders, mostly in good weather.

The route, organised by Mike Gastall, took us round Cumbernauld – some of us round and round Cumbernauld – to Kames Golf and Country Club near Carstairs for coffee. The next stop was the Barony Castle in Eddleston for lunch.

As usual, many of us lost our way on at least one occasion, but all eventually arrived in Swinton to enjoy good food and good company. The majority stayed two nights and took advantage of the sights of the Borders. Mike had organised a route to the Museum of Flight at East Fortune on the Sunday.

Our next event is the replacement for the 'Club Championship'. The rules have changed to avoid excessive motor sport regulation and considerable fees; thus there will be a less competitive atmosphere. By holding the event on a Sunday, we hope for an increased turn out this year.

Future events include a run to the Antique Centre at Doune in September, and a member-organised run in October. The winter programme will be held on Wednesdays, which will not clash with the Inner Wheel this year, and is in preparation.

Douglas Arthur, Chairman

Beh – Hawkins



Rik Hawkins married Anne Beh in Horsham, Surrey, on Saturday, 27 April 2013, before enjoying a wonderful wedding reception at Botley's Manor near Chertsey.

The groom and best man, Euan Willder, both went to Killearn Primary School and Balfroon High, before Rik went on to study medicine at Aberdeen University, where he met Anne. Both Rik and Anne are now doctors practising in Guildford, Surrey.

KCFC Paths Group News

John Muir Coast to Coast Trail

In the winter edition of the *Courier* there was an article about a proposal to route the trail between Dunbar and Helensburgh via Killearn. Included in the magazine was a form asking readers to support this proposal by returning completed forms or emailing SNH and/or KCFC Path Group. The response was good and SNH confirmed that it was invaluable evidence of community support.

Unfortunately for Killearn, the alternative of a route from Strathblane via the Kilpatrick Hills has now been selected, a decision influenced by favourable landowner support, the Forestry Commission, who own a significant part of the Kilpatrick Hills section, and funding.

The Kilpatrick Hills route includes more gradients than the most of the JMC2CT. For this reason SNH propose to recommend the West Highland Way and National Cycle Route 7 as an alternative route after Strathblane.

All is not lost, since we all will benefit from a new walking route from Strathblane across the Kilpatrick Hills, and SNH acknowledge that the case for a West Highland Way off-road connection to Killearn has been strengthened.

Our thanks to everyone who completed forms and emailed support. It will still be useful evidence for any future initiative.

Need for Help

The Path Group are still looking for more volunteers to sign on as path maintenance helpers. By doing so volunteers will



©Peter Smith

be given prior notice of activities and can choose when they are able to assist. The larger the pool of volunteers, the more we can do. It also provides better flexibility since planned dates do not suit everybody. To register your interest please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Mike Gray on 550962, email: mike@mgray3.freeserve.co.uk.

The Path Group is committed to opening up more recreational opportunities, such as the 'all user' off-road path between Killearn and Boquhan, with a longer term ambition to reach Balfroon. To progress these objectives requires considerable effort. If you are interested and feel you would like to contribute and can spare a little of your time, you might consider joining the Path Group Committee. For more information please contact Norman McNab, Path Group Convenor on 550441, email: normanmcnab@sol.co.uk.

Killearn Glen Bracken Bash

Douglas Flynn, the Countryside Ranger, has arranged for a 'Bracken Bash' in Killearn Glen on 14 August. This activity has been carried out over the last few years and has the objective of gradually eliminating the bracken from the Glen. Bracken is very difficult to eliminate, but this procedure is working. The more people who turn up to help the better, and everyone will be given instruction. Tools and protective gloves will be provided. It is good fun and satisfying work. Put the 14 August in your diary and come to the Glen wearing stout footwear and old clothes.

Norman McNab

Marvellous Millport – Anniversary Edition!

As I put pen to paper (metaphorically speaking, of course)... I put down the day's date... June 18, 2013... that's sounds familiar... It should be... it's Mr & Mrs Freewheelin's 25th wedding anniversary. Don't worry I hadn't forgotten... honest! I got Mrs FW a nice new set of long series Allen keys and a spanner for the Manglery. Mrs FW will be delighted!

This takes Freewheelin back to the day when we got married in Millport all those long years ago. The Island of Cumbrae located in the Firth of Clyde is a cyclistic paradise with a ring road right round the island of some ten miles or so, with little in the way of hills and few vehicles to encounter. Cycling parents can relax for once without the constant calling of 'Cahhhr!'.



Crocodile Rock

Getting there is so easy: drive to Largs, park the car, purchase tickets at the terminal office and then ride up the ramp of the Calmac ferry with its familiar black and white livery. Complete with bikes and picnic, relax and enjoy the 15-minute crossing up on the top deck watching out for the ubiquitous gulls and what they do best. On disembarkation, you will no doubt be overcome with a sense of calm and peacefulness that transcends the island with its somewhat slower pace of living, almost like going back to a more innocent era.

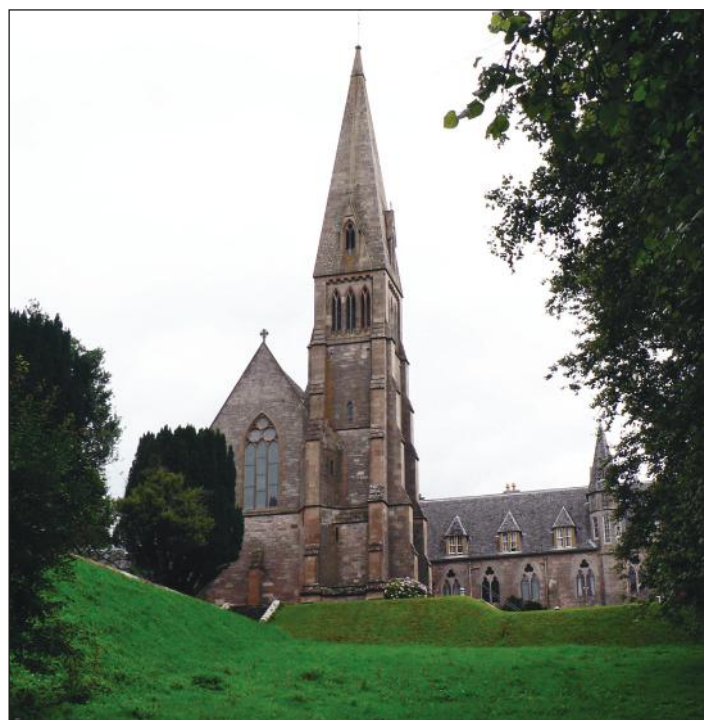
Set off left or right from the ferry – no matter – and the route will take you round the island and at some point through the only town, the sleepy picturesque hamlet of Millport. There are loads to see and do for the day tripping cyclist on the island. Look out for the Lion rock and the elusive Indian rock on the west coast of the island cliffs... always a prize for the first to spot it. Then, of course, there's the world famous Crocodile Rock (please stay well back if it's around tea time!) made famous by Elton John's song of the same name back in the early '70s. Elton spent all his childhood holidays in Millport and learned to play piano in Bobby's Tavern. Honest. OK, I made that bit up, but it had you going!

The wildlife around the island is abundant and the gannets' thrilling fish-diving displays on the west coast are something I can watch all day. The roadside wild flowers, especially

at this time of the year, are a marvel, their heady perfume amazingly blends with the sea air producing an elixir which does your soul good. On the leisurely way round, have yourselves a wee respite at Fintry bay with its café, sandy beach and stunning views over to Kilchattan Bay on Bute, with its even sandier beach. (Grass is always greener.) Arran, behind with its alpine skyline, dominates; moody in all weathers.

When in Millport you must visit the Ritz café with its original art deco interior so evocative of the period's seaside Italian ice-cream parlour. The homemade ice cream served here for generations is the very finest, and an ice float made with your choice of fizzy drink is their signature dish (don't stir it or you may be asked to leave!). Sadly the establishment is up for sale and its future not certain, so don't miss out.

There is so much to see on the island. I would certainly recommend a visit to the Cathedral of the Isles (*pictured below*) built in 1851 by the Doyle family, and still the smallest cathedral in Britain. The Marine Station aquarium is good if the weather isn't. After relaxing in the town's palm-tree lined esplanade it's good to finish off with a fish supper bought from the pier side chippy... salt & vinegar?... plenty!... Yum! Returning in the late evening to the ferry terminal, rounding Millport's Kames Bay in the dipping evening sun is a picture that will stay with you. Go try... it's right on your doorstep.



Let Freewheelin know how you get on at:
freewheelin@kefc.co.uk

See you next time, cycle safe...

Steve

PS Bike and helmet hire are readily available in Millport and the town is only a short bus ride from the ferry terminal. More information can be found at www.millport.org.



Scotland's First Cycle Hub Launched in Stirling



Scotland's first cycle hub was launched on 3 May at Stirling Train Station. The cycle hub is funded by Transport Scotland in partnership with ScotRail and is managed by local environmental charity, Forth Environment Link. Stirling was chosen as the pilot site due to the willingness of local partners to develop the project and because it is the seventh busiest rail station in Scotland. The hub will be open 10am – 6pm every day. More information is available on the website: www.stirlingcyclehub.org.

Transport Minister Keith Brown along with Green Councillor Mark Ruskell launched the initiative to a packed hub of over 40 well-wishers that included members of the cycling community, local groups, representatives from local and national government, as well as national cycling organisations.

The Cycle Hub will contribute to the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland's vision that by 2020, 10 per cent of all journeys will be made by bike. The Scottish Government has allocated up to £200,000 to Forth Environment Link over three financial years to set up and run the first ever Rail Cycle Hub facility as a pilot at Stirling Station. Services will include information and signposting to cycle services, and detailed route planning. The hub team will work with local communities to encourage and promote cycling. Alongside the hub will be secure cycle parking and lockers. The Cycle Hub will enable better integration between train services and cycling.

If successful, the Cycle Hub could be rolled out across the country in areas where there is a demand for cycle facilities.



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The Great Strathendrick Duck Race



©Duncan Clark

The Ninth Annual 'running' of the Great Strathendrick Duck Race was held in conjunction with the Fintry Fling on Saturday, 1 June.

Occasionally in the past the lack of water has seen the Duck Race being run on dry land (don't ask), but this year was different. Around 2.30pm, an otherwise delightful afternoon was interrupted by a heavy shower of rain, which was deemed to be excellent weather for the 1,500-odd ducks to be dumped into the Endrick Water beside the Fintry Sports Club, on whose grounds the Fintry Fling was taking place. The Race was under way.

The rain appeared to inspire the ducks which floated down the river with leisurely dignity, eventually meandering their way to the finishing line. With breath-taking excitement the six winners were removed for identification, while a team of wader-clad Rotarians spent the next half hour retrieving the losers from the river. The winners of the Duck Race were determined as follows:

The winners were Gregor Smyth (£100), May Pepper (£50), and Marcus, June Murray, Adam Gilbert and Jamie Perrit who each won £25.

Congratulations to the lucky winners. The event raised over £1000, for local youth charities. The Club thanks all those who so generously supported this event. *ANW*

Inner Wheel Shows Its Style



l to r Pat Rodger, Wilma Brownlie, Mary Froud, Betty Meikle, Ros Ford, Sheila Blyth, Rita Mearns.

On Friday, 19 April, the ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick laid on an evening fashion show in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre at Gartnavel Hospital.

The fashions were supplied by Vanity Fair of Bearsden and Helensburgh and modelled by nine members of the Club who had eight changes of clothing each, so there were lots of different fashions to be seen and appreciated by the audience of some 300 ladies.

The evening started with a glass of wine on arrival, the models strutted their stuff to a selection of pop music from the '60s which, coupled with the excellent venue at Balforn High School, ensured it was a very enjoyable evening.

The event raised £4,500 for the charity, and Club President Betty Meikle expressed her thanks to Vanity Fair for their participation, Balforn High School for their help, the members for all their hard work, but particularly all those who supported this worthy cause.

The photograph shows President Betty Meikle with some of the members whose hard work and efforts made the evening such a success. The cheque was later presented to the Paul O'Gorman Trust. *TA*

The Golden Years Club

37 members enjoyed a great day at St. Andrews on Saturday, 22 June. The weather was excellent and lunch was enjoyed in a lovely dining room at the Scores Hotel overlooking the bay.

We have 3 events each year – a free dinner with entertainment in March, a free annual coach outing and a musical evening fundraiser, which is open to everyone, and this year is on 20 September in the Kirk Hall. Funding this year has been provided by Killearn Trust and the Hoolie for which we are most grateful. If you would like to join the Club please contact any of the committee members – Peter Rea, Teresa Prescott, Anne O'Neill or Bob Ballantyne.

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The Sounds of Summer

When people make the choice between town and country as a place to live, arguments can be marshalled on both sides. City dwellers love the convenience of having everything on the doorstep, from a concert hall to a wine shop. They sometimes don't drive because they don't need a car. They hop on and off public transport, or they take taxis with a gay abandon that would have startled their parents. But what town dwellers miss most when they are uprooted to the country is what they call the 'buzz'. They like the noise of the city, and contrast it with what they think of as the quiet country life. As many villagers will tell them, this is a bit of a misnomer. Sometimes the country is almost as noisy as anywhere else.

Most of the time, it doesn't matter. Most of the time, we are indoors putting on extra fleeces or watching the rain cascade down the windows. But when the sun does come out, the temptation to rush outside and bask is pretty overwhelming. Should you be in the happy position of being able to take your work into the garden, you can set up yourself and your laptop at the picnic table and get on with it, in sun hat and factor 45. Many a report can be written and letter drafted while the operator soaks up whatever vital vitamin it is that the sun provides. But it is a mistake to think this will always be achieved in a rural silence.

For a start, there are as many road works going on in the country as everywhere else. And one can hardly complain at the state of the roads and then complain when

something is done about it. But there are also lots of work on drains and driveways that are noisy in their execution. There will be a Nobel Peace Prize for whoever invents the silent pneumatic drill. Add to that the cacophony offered by vans. In themselves, vans are fine, but why do the drivers so often feel they have to subject the entire neighbourhood to their choice of radio channel? It would seem that people doing outdoor work can't operate without having their ears blasted by fourth-rate pop music and an inane commentary. And should I be accused of being a musical dinosaur, I don't even want to hear Mozart blasted into the open air. There is a time and place for no music at all.

Some outdoor noises are quite acceptable, however. Once school is over for the day, it is perfectly reasonable for small boys to play football in their gardens. That's what the gardens are for, and running about kicking a ball and yelling encouragement does them a power of good. Likewise, should the sun get hot enough for long enough, the screeching and splashing of little kids in paddling pools is a fine summer sound. You know the weather is brilliant when you hear it. What is less appealing, on a quiet Sunday afternoon, is to have the peace fractured by boy racers with delusions of speedway stardom tearing round the village environs on bikes which appear to have shed their silencers. Why don't they go and do it round the city? They like 'buzz' in there.

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Killearn Kirk Guild Rally



On Thursday, 6 June, Killearn Kirk hosted the Guild Presbyterial Rally for the first time in ten years.

Over 200 members from all over Stirlingshire attended on a beautiful June evening. So for everyone who wondered what on earth all the buses – not to mention cars – were doing taking up all the parking places, now you know.

Thanks go to all those who helped make this a success by baking, setting up and clearing up, for those who helped 'direct the traffic', and to the Black Bull for the use of their car park.

Hopefully, we will have another ten years to recover.

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Otago Class

In February a new strength and balance Otago class started on a Thursday afternoon from 1pm until 1.30pm in the Church Hall. Otago is a gentle, fun, easy to follow class, designed specifically for older people to improve their balance and strengthen the thigh, hip and calf leg muscles so as to prevent falls in later life. All very important if you want to remain independent and live in your own home for as long as possible. Most of the exercises are done either in a chair or behind the chair so you always have the support of the chair if your balance is not so good.

This is not a traditional exercise class and you do not go away 'puffing and panting'. We take these simple exercises at a gentle pace. They are designed to be straightforward so as to allow you to do them in your own home as part of your everyday routine – for example, you could do some knee bends while waiting for the kettle to boil or do the sit-to-stand exercise during the advert breaks on the television!

The class has proved very popular and participants have found it very useful.

Do consider coming along to try the class. If travel to Killearn is a problem for you, Demand Response Transport may be available to you – phone 0844 567 5670.

Details can also be found on www.activestirling.org.uk in the Over 50s programme.

If you are coming to the class for the first time, or if you have any questions, please call:

Tricia on 0300 028 0101 or mobile 07774 708064.

Killearn Church Hall, Thursday afternoon
1pm – 1.30pm, £2.00 per class.



Back knee strengthener



Front knee strengthener

The ladies who know.

At the Old Mill Gift Shop not only is it about the quality of the merchandise, but so much of the shopping experience is down to the friendly and knowledgeable staff. Many of you will know Margaret, Marcia, Maureen, Pat and Stephanie as friends and neighbours, but those that visit the shop will also be aware of their in-depth product knowledge. Whilst it is great to have such a big choice under one roof, it takes years of experience (in the shop and also in life) to help customers find just the right gift for someone or treat for themselves. The other part of the job is to act as an 'information exchange' and all are highly skilled in the art of conversation.

Local knowledge in a local setting has always really been what the shop is about. Set up fifteen years ago by Keith Kemsley, it has been one of the features of village life that hopefully help to make Killearn such a treasured place to live. It has been run for the last seven years by Wendy Ross. Her ability to find products that suit so many ages and taste levels can be seen in all the mini departments in the shop. And now her daughter Julie is working there as well, adding her thoughts and ideas to keep it relevant to younger customers.

Contemporary is a word that is used quite a bit, but is one that sums up the look and feel of many of the products in the shop. 'What does it do?' and 'Is it giftable?' are the two main criteria that products are judged on. Of course there are some things that just look great but if they have a purpose as well, then that is even better. Take the new range of glassware that has just arrived for example. Many of the items are simply good to look at, but from the elegant wine glasses through to the beautiful cake stands, the difficult choice has been whether to give them as gifts or simply to have them for yourself.

The range of products just seems to grow and grow. As we now start to approach another Autumn, the ladies accessory collections will be a riot of colours and textures. The jewellery, sourced from all over the world, will go from simple to spectacular. Baby gifts, body products, photo frames, children's toys, greeting cards and wrap, scented candles, handbags, scarves.....the list goes on and on. There really is a tremendous variety of inspired ideas to make your gift stand out. And remember, if you are struggling to come up with an idea yourself – just ask the ladies!

OPEN 7 Days

Killlearn Health Centre News

Changes to Vaccination Programme

There are changes to both the childhood and adult vaccination programmes planned for later this year. We will keep all our patients informed via notices, our newsletter and our website. One key change we would like to bring to your attention now is the plan to offer a nasal flu vaccination to all children attending Killlearn, Strathblane, Drymen, Buchanan, Fintry and Balfron Primary Schools. These vaccinations will be administered in the surgery. We will provide more information to parents nearer the time.

Online Prescription Ordering

Don't forget you can order your prescriptions 24/7 on our website.

Text Reminders

We offer a text service which, the day before your appointment, sends a reminder text to your mobile phone, a handy service in today's busy world. If we don't have it already, please provide us with your mobile phone number. You can contact us on our website or fill in a slip at reception.

Public Holidays

Please note that we will be OPEN on the September weekend, Monday, 30 September.

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Killearn Community Council Annual Report 2012-2013

The Council ended the year with a full membership:

Brenda Pell, Peter Wilks, Margery Burdon, Gail Campbell, Janet Duncan, Margaret Harrison, Peter Rea (resigned at the AGM), Nigel Kelly, David Scott, Derek Stuart, Heather Wright plus Youth Members: Hannah McLaren and Eilidh Robertson. Killearn is the only CC in the area to have Youth Members. Ours play a full role in meetings. We thank them and the whole membership of the council for their contribution, and wish Hannah, who is leaving, the very best for her future.

Stirling Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) has taken up much of our attention.

The proposals:

- removed the Blaressan site,
- shifted the quota of 50 houses to Station Road, and
- gave little prominence to the Killearn Hospital site.

No consultation between the community and the planners was permitted in the procedure, but strong opposition to the proposal was voiced at several well-attended meetings throughout the autumn and winter.

A KCC response, based on expressed public opinion was sent to the planners. This

- deplored the 'surprise' element of the LDP and the lack of consultation,
- opposed the siting of a block of 50 houses on Station Road,
- recommended positive planning for mixed development on the Hospital site, and
- urged a joint effort of the community and Stirling Council in reaching a solution acceptable to both parties.

The Plan, accepted by Stirling Council on 2 May, has now been sent to the Scottish Parliament which, it is hoped, will appoint a Reporter who will hold a hearing to examine and determine the outcome of issues where communities, such as Killearn, have raised significant objections. Such hearings, if ordered, will be likely to take place in late 2013 or early 2014.

The Old Peoples' Bungalows on the 'Turnip Field' have progressed slowly over the past months. It is hoped these will soon be completed, tenanted and the remaining land restored to leisure purposes.

Killearn Park, including the remainder of the Turnip Field has been awarded *Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust status*, ensuring it will remain as parkland in perpetuity. This great achievement has been due in large measure to your votes last year and marks how much the park means to us all. Thank you for your support.

Football Club Changing Rooms have received planning permission for erection close to the Playpark. A number of constraints have limited the choice of site. Some larger items of play equipment will be re-sited and every effort will be made to ensure the Playpark setting remains attractive.

Keeping our village well maintained is the responsibility of us all. KCC tries to ensure problems are addressed. We continue to support the Clean Up Scotland Campaign, involving young people in an anti-litter exercise. Stirling

Council has responded appropriately to problems with dogs, trees, gutters and drains, street cleaning and a query about invasive weeds. We thank them for their information and support. The works at the Co-op and the Well Green are part of a major problem with drainage and is listed to be addressed.

Certain problems though, fall under the area of private responsibility. Amongst these are dog fouling, high trees and hedges, and safe and thoughtful parking. The recent change of position for the large planter outside Spar was made in order to try to prevent vehicles parking on the pedestrian area. Mixing vehicles with pedestrians outside a shop is a recipe for disaster. New signage and yellow lining at the Spar, the Co-op and the bank should clarify disabled parking spaces. Sometimes education is needed to reinforce this. 'Not going to be long' should not be an excuse for parking without entitlement. The pressures on parking in all the villages will increase as the villages expand.

Road repairs have been ongoing around the village. Re-alignment of the A81 at the Distillery last year has improved the visibility there. Boquhan residents have raised concerns about traffic safety at a petitions panel, requesting changes to the speed limits and signage, with a little success. Improvements to many footpaths in Boquhan and Killearn would also be welcome.

Guest speakers have been welcomed to several meetings and have extended our knowledge and interest. The **Local Area Forum**, led by the Communities Team of Stirling Council provides information and discussions on subjects of interest in the locality. It is open to all and is attended by KCC representatives, discussions being reported at our meetings. Elected Councillors, the police and NHS personnel take part along with interested residents of all the western villages.

KCC has participated in several **Stirling Council and National Consultations** during the past year. Areas covered and ongoing include Community Empowerment and Renewal, Transport, Single Outcome Agreement, Changes to the Planning System. Thanks are due to the members who have given their time and thought to these issues.

Our elected Councillors are Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead. Together with **Community Police Officer**, David McNally, they all attend KCC meetings regularly, provide reports and information, and give advice on issues raised by residents. We are grateful to them all for their dedication in supporting the interests of our village.

KCC will come to the end of its term at the end of October when the current council will be disbanded. Nominations will be requested and it is hoped a new council will be inaugurated in November. It will be a time of change. At least three members (myself among them) of the current council will not re-apply. The ability to form a new Council will depend on residents being willing to offer their time and talents to serve the community. I ask you to consider doing just that!

Brenda Pell

Killearn Country Market is going LARGE!!

Since the last edition of the *Courier*, our monthly market has undergone an amazing transformation with a new injection of energy and thanks to your support, has continued to grow from strength to strength. We are now exhibiting over 24 stalls each month – a fabulous mix of food producers and high quality crafters to bring you the ultimate shopping experience in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.



Our regular stallholders include Fruits & Roots, Ardunan Farm, Lomond Fishmongers, Mhor Bread, Dumgoyne Soap, The Handmade Pasta Company, Lucy Boermans, Lambros Quality Products, Stick By Me, Whitehill Preserves, Dunmore Designs and Needleworx to name but a few. There is something for everyone! You will find full details of our market and stallholders on our website and for more up-to-date news on who is coming and any special offers please check out our Facebook page.



The majority of our stallholders are sourced from the local area and our aim has always been to provide a platform for local food producers and small businesses to launch and showcase their products. Whilst doing this we also provide you with a regular social opportunity/point of interest which forms an integral part of village life. As such we are trying to work more closely with local schools and event organisers in other villages in order to collectively promote our wider community events and support fundraising activities.

Our Killearn Country Market's pop up café is proving to be a very popular. This is currently run by the fabulous ladies of the Killearn Tennis Club. They not only produce the mouth-watering selection of home baking every month, but are all up early on market day setting up tables and chairs, running the café then clearing up the aftermath in order to raise some well-earned money for the club.



We are very excited that Killearn Village Hall has re-opened. As of 3 August, we moved back into the newly re-furbished space which provides us opportunity to GO LARGE! More stallholders, home grown entertainment on occasion, and we hope more customers.

Killearn Country Market is a group of Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC), run by the community for the community and we cannot do it

without you!! If you're a regular, we really appreciate your continued support. If you've not been for a while, why not pop along; you will not be disappointed!

Please help support your local market and the volunteers who give up their time to organise these events for you. Look out for our new banners which will be on display on the run up to market day. Spread the word and bring a friend.

Killearn Country Market is held on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the Village Hall.

For more information visit us on Facebook or www.killearncountrymarket.com

For general enquiries contact Daye Tucker (551060) or email daye@carbethhomefarm.co.uk

For bookings contact Gwenda Watt (551251) or email gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk

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☐ Cheers! ☐




Experiencing some great weather yet again, the Killearn Beer Festival enjoyed another successful day, building on last year's inaugural event and welcoming around 400 visitors, including many families. This year's festival, again hosted at the Old Mill, expanded on last year's offerings with some 20 beers from 5 breweries; last year's favourites from Stewarts and Orkney were augmented by Inveralmond and two local ones, Fallen and Loch Lomond. To cater for the wide range of tastes, several speciality ciders from Waulkmill were also available and these proved a great hit as well. Overall, from feedback received from a number of the guests, the extensive range of beers and ciders was extremely well appreciated.

The afternoon proceedings were accompanied by music from a local ceilidh band, Chitterybite, while a Hog Roast stand provided excellent ballast for the day's main activity. Although run separately, there was a tie up with the 10K run that morning, with many of runners turning up for some well deserved refreshment in the afternoon.

As a non-profit organisation and as with last year, much of the proceeds from the event will be used to contribute to local groups and charities. With next year's event now set for Saturday, 7 June to coincide with the start of the Hoolie, you can keep up to date with developments using our email address: info@killearnbeerfest.org.

On behalf of the organising team, can I just thank everyone who attended the event and contributed to another great community day. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Mark White, Killearn Beer Festival



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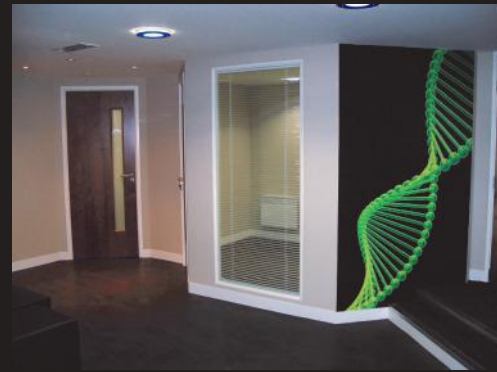
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Welcome To Your Village Hall

By the time you read this, the Opening Day, Saturday, 20 July, will be long past. There was a tremendous turnout of villagers all anxious to see what their renovated hall looked like, particularly after suffering months of disruption with cars, vans, lorries, diggers and such like parked all over the place as well as halfway down Station Road plus access to the car park restricted. Was it worth it? From the comments on the opening day, the answer is a resounding 'yes'.



cinema, pool table, table tennis, table football and TV games are ideal for use by young people from the village and elsewhere.

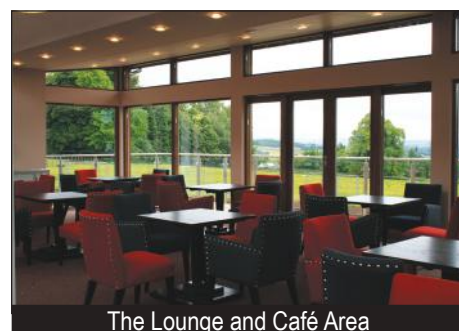
There are six display cabinets and a dedicated computer for use by All Killlearn Archives which will allow some of the history of the village to be exhibited and explored.

The new kitchen fittings are superb, and the views out the windows make preparation –

and even washing-up – a delight.

Similarly, the floor-to-ceiling windows in the Coffee Shop allow for stunning views right across the Glebe to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

The coffee shop is being run by Killlearn residents Simon and Sarah Whitley, who make



The Lounge and Café Area

a very welcome addition to the overall facilities. Further information about the Coffee Shop and other facilities is available on our website: www.killlearnvillagehall.co.uk.

The Hall is now owned by the KCFC on behalf of the village and is no longer maintained by Stirling Council. David Rodger chairs the Killlearn Village Hall Operations Committee, responsible for marketing and maintaining the Hall on your behalf. They are a hard-working group of volunteers, so please support them and your Hall. Indeed, you could join the committee if you wished – they are looking for members, in particular a secretary and a treasurer.

This really is a fantastic facility to have in any village, and we are very fortunate to have it in ours. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of a number of people, too many to mention here except one. Brian Simmers has lived with this since the beginning, and now deserves a huge thank you and a well-earned rest.

This Hall will serve the community well, so do come along and make use of it. It is, after all, yours. TID



The Commercial Kitchen

This all started when it became apparent that the 200-year-old building was falling into a sorry state and becoming unfit for purpose.

Despite being used

continually by many organisations, the hall was tired and in much need of some major TLC.

Five and a half years ago, in January 2008, David Clark had a vision which kicked started the whole process. As a result, Killlearn now has a 21st-century village hall offering a range of upgraded and brand new facilities for use by villagers and visitors alike. It is a great pity David is no longer with us to see the completed product and the realisation of his vision.

The raising of the Main Hall floor allows for views never so easily seen from there before and this, combined with a new commercial kitchen, presents



The new Club Room

an ideal venue for weddings, parties, ceilidhs and other major events. The Main Hall also has state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems which support stage productions. The stage is still in the same place, but it, too, has been upgraded. The meeting rooms with overhead projectors make them ideal venues for training seminars, presentations or other similar events. The Club and Games Rooms with their computers,



The Opening Ceremony in the Main Hall

How Well Do You Know Your Village?

- The name Killearn means: a) the church of the west point
b) the home of the hermit c) the settlement by the river
- The village is built below the slopes of the:
a) the Camp Hills b) the Cameron Fells c) the Campsie Fells
- The two water courses which run are through the valley are:
a) River Endrick and Blane Water b) Endrick Water and River Blane
c) Endrick Water and Blane Water
- The population of the village is just over: a) 2,000 b) 4,000 c) 900
- How many original church buildings still exist in the village?:
a) 2 b) 3 c) 4
- The Minister's name is: a) Lee Malloch b) Lee Oswald c) Lee Messeder
- The Buchanan Monument was built to commemorate:
a) James Buchanan b) George Buchanan c) Graham Buchanan
- Which anniversary of the birth of the person correctly named above was celebrated in Killearn in the past decade?
a) 300 years b) 400 year c) 500 years
- The above person was famed for a) tutoring James VI
b) speaking and writing many languages c) both of these.
- The tubs of flowering plants throughout the village are provided and maintained by a) Stirling Council b) Colourful Killearn c) Killearn Growers
- Membership of Killearn Community Futures Company is
a) by invitation only b) free to all residents
c) open to all residents for a £1 annual subscription
- The purpose of Killearn Community Council is to a) act as a two-way channel of communication between Stirling Council and the residents
b) act as an opposition to Stirling Council's plans
c) ensure no changes are made to the village
- Killearn is represented by how many elected members of Stirling Council?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3
- Our Community Police Officer is:
a) David MacManus b) Ally McCann c) David McNally
- What does Abbeyfield provide for older people? a) day care
b) residential and nursing care c) sheltered accommodation service
- Abbeyfield has accommodation for a) 4 residents b) 8 residents
c) 12 residents
- Who owns the Glebe? a) Killearn Community Futures Company
b) Killearn Trust c) Stirling Council
- Who manages and maintains the Glen? a) Killearn Community Council
b) Killearn Trust c) Stirling Council
- Who now owns the Village Hall? a) the Church of Scotland
b) Killearn Community Futures Company c) Stirling Council
- Where does Stirling Council plan to build fifty houses?
a) on Station Road b) on the hospital site c) on the Turnip field

Answers below right:

Green Aspirations

Green Aspirations Scotland have been continuing to run workshops throughout the summer months in the beautiful broadleaf woodland in Drumtitan Road.

Our recent Family Bushcraft Day funded by Wood for All was full of local families practising bushcraft activities such as den building, campfire cooking and making your own bow and arrows! Based on this success, we created a second Bushcraft Day with different activities to provide variety for regular visitors. Some feedback told us that we provide 'a lovely experience', 'learning new experiences with my kids' and we are 'enthusiastic teachers'.

We hope to see you in the woods soon. Visit our website:

www.greenaspirationsscotland.co.uk where you will find details of what we do and our current workshop programme.

Broadband Advisory Group Next Generation Broadband

Readers may know of the recent Scottish Government announcement of a contract with BT for Next Generation Broadband. This supplements the Highlands and Islands contract and aims to connect 85% of Scottish premises by 2015, and 95% by 2017 to the high-speed fibre network.

Stirling Council have agreed to supplement the central funding and have set up a Broadband Advisory Group to help them interface with Community Councils and other initiatives, such as Community Broadband Scotland, to provide a local perspective. By the autumn it is expected that BT will have completed a detailed survey of the local exchanges and connections. The Group will then be able to offer further advice.

Meanwhile, we are interested in hearing about the level of broadband connectivity you get from your current provider, and any issues.

Doug Ashworth is a Public Representative on the Advisory Group. Please contact him on 550074 for any further information and feedback.

The Drymen Pottery

Coffee Shop, Restaurant & Bar

Come and try something of our menu, we have a great selection, with one of our most popular dishes being our fish and chips. Or why not sit by one of our open fires and try our Highland Beef Steak Pie and finish your meal off with a slice of our home baking.

If you don't have time to stop, The Pottery has a wide range of meals on our carry out menu.
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Killearn Quiz Answers
1. a 2. c 3. a 4. a 5. c 6. c
7. b 8. c 9. c 10. b 11. c 12. a
13. c 14. c 15. c 16. b 17. b
18. c 19. b 20. a

Situations Vacant

**Do you want Killearn to stay as a great place to live?
Are you committed enough to help achieve that?
Do you care enough about your village?**

On these pages are organisation who have asked the *Courier* to publish their appeals for volunteers.

The good life we enjoy in Killearn is down to the many organisations that rely on you if they are to continue to play a part in village life. The Village Hall would not have been refurbished without the volunteer directors of KCFC. This magazine would not be published. The youth organisations, both in and out of the church, would not run.

Show you care by giving a few hours of your time.

Rotary Club of Strathendrick



- * Interested in becoming a Rotarian?
- * Waiting to be asked?
- * Don't know anything about Rotary?

Why not come along to the Black Bull Hotel on a Monday night at 6.30 for 7pm?

Contact Steve Holden, Hon. Sec. (550764)
or email jspaholden@btinternet.com.

Killearn Village Hall Operations Committee

The Village Hall Committee was set up to run the newly refurbished Village Hall which is now owned by the community. There is already a core group of volunteers in place dealing with the day-to-day running of the Hall. However, we need a Treasurer and a Secretary, whose jobs would be as the titles suggest. Neither task will be time consuming.

If you want to help, please contact:
David Rodger (550241) or
email: d.rodger@btinternet.com.

Digital Delight



- ✂ Want to add razzmatazz to your school project?
- ✂ Want to promote your local group's website?
- ✂ Want to learn a new skill?
- ✂ Want to make a movie?

Then take action!

We have to tools to help you – a HD domestic camera, an audio recorder and a MacBook Pro with Final Cut ProX. Easy to use and available to borrow.

If you would like more information, please contact:
Jaqui McAlpine – jaquimcalpine@hotmail.com



Candidates to form a new Community Council will be needed in the autumn. All current Community Councillors will complete their term of office and will be disbanded at the end of

October. Nominations for new community council members will be advertised and new councils will be elected. A number of members of the current KCC will not be available for re-election. It is essential that sufficient people put their names forward if a new KCC is to be formed and inaugurated in November. If you have an interest in the well being of our village, please consider offering yourself to be a member of the new Community Council. The current KCC would be pleased to hear of your interest. Look out for information regarding the elections in the autumn. No special skills are required to be a member of KCC but a willingness to engage in matters of concern to the community. Some experience would be helpful to fill the offices of chair, secretary, minutes secretary, treasurer and planning correspondent, but one job does require specialist skills:

Webmaster

The Council has a comprehensive and valued website. An additional member who could shadow the current webmaster and ultimately take on the role of maintaining the website is needed. Appropriate IT skills are needed for this post plus a willingness to monitor and update the information on a regular basis.

To obtain further information about the roles and responsibilities of KCC and to volunteer your services:
contact: Brenda Pell (550328) or Peter Wilks (550269)
or any member of the Council.

You can also use the contact form on our website:
www.killearncc.org.uk.

Sustainable Killearn

Sustainable Killearn is a group dedicated to the sustainability of rural village life – looking at community sustainability, environmental sustainability, self-help and enterprise. We are keen to hear from anyone with ideas, and especially anyone who could get involved in projects to promote the aims of the group.

If you would like more information, please contact:
Heather Wright (550980)
email: heatherwrightuk@aol.com.

Loch Ard Sailing



Happy sailors wanted at Loch Ard, especially families.

For more information contact:
www.lochardsc.org.uk
or Nigel Kelly (550820)

Colourful Killearn



Colourful Killearn – CK to it's friends – is a voluntary organisation which is responsible for planting and maintaining the flowering tubs that you see around the village. Many people in the village are of the opinion that the tubs are maintained by the local council. They most definitely are not!

We are desperate to welcome new members to the group as some of our existing members who have been doing this work for many years are indicating that they would like to retire and concentrate on their own gardens.

If you are able to help, please contact:
Iain Bowie (550349) or
Mike Gray (550962) or email:
johnibowie@btinternet.com.

Thursday Club

Volunteer drivers are needed on Thursday afternoons to pick up members of the Club from their homes at 1.45pm to take them to Killearn Church Hall and to return to collect them at 4pm for the return trip home. The new session starts September 2013.

If you can help, please contact
Peggy Gardner (550558).

Cancer Research UK (CRUK)

Have you or your family been affected by cancer?

Can you spare a few hours to help raise funds?

CRUK is the world's leading charity dedicated to research into the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer, and is the largest single funder of cancer research in the UK. The charity supports research in all aspects of the disease through the work of more than 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses across the UK.

Strathendrick Volunteer Local Committee of CRUK is appealing for volunteers. Formed in 1993 by Irene Alldritt, it has raised more than £210,000. Janet Rutherford, President,

PLUS – Can You Help?



PLUS is a charitable organisation working across the Forth Valley to give individuals with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 35 the support they need to get out and about and have fun with their peers. At PLUS, we believe disabilities should be no barrier to fun!

PLUS is looking to recruit a rural volunteer to support a young person to attend Brownies on a weekly basis in Killearn. Brownies runs on a Wednesday between 3.15pm – 4.30pm.

This volunteering role will involve supporting a young girl, encouraging her to take part in various activities such as games, arts and crafts, and facilitating communication with her peers.

Previous experience of supporting children or young people is essential. Experience supporting young people with disabilities is desirable but not essential, as training and support will be provided to meet the requirements of this role. PLUS will also cover any agreed out of pocket volunteer expenses for travel, etc.

All interested volunteers are required to complete a PLUS volunteer application and undertake a PVG disclosure check.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact:
Steph Millar (01786 450086)
inc@plus-stirling.org.uk
For more information about PLUS, please visit our website
www.plus-stirling.org.uk.

praised Irene, her family and many volunteers for their commitment and hard work over the years. However, Irene, along with other members, has now taken retirement and new members are needed urgently.

We are holding our:

Annual Coffee Morning

Saturday, 14 September

10am – 12 noon

Stalls, home baking and a raffle.

Tickets: Adults £2, Children 50p

If you can spare a few hours now and again and would like to help, please contact: Gail Pain (550752), email: gail.pain@btinternet.com.

The Killearn Hoolie

www.killearnhoolie.com

The Killearn Hoolie Committee is looking for new members to come and join their existing team.

If you think you would like to be involved in the next Hoolie to take place between the 7–14 June 2014, then why not get in touch?

Without the help and support from the dedicated voluntary committee, the Killearn Hoolie would not happen. Planning will begin September 2013.

So why not come and see what it's all about, the Killearn Hoolie Needs You!

Contact Jennifer Brown (550681)
email: jnfr.brown@btinternet.com.

Strathendrick Singers



**Do you enjoy singing?
Maybe you have sung in choirs before?
Have you enjoyed one of our concerts?
Are you thinking about joining a choir?**

Strathendrick Singers are a local choir that has been enjoying making music for over 30 years. We rehearse in Balfour Church at 7.30pm on Monday starting on 2 September, and perform Christmas and Spring Concerts.

Want to learn more visit
www.strathendricksingers.org.uk
or contact Ken Allen (550415)

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Situations Vacant (continued)

Killearn Community Futures Company

Succession is so important for voluntary groups. Too often it is left to the same volunteers to carry on for too long. Volunteering should be fun and fulfilling, never a burden. Regular and fresh injections of new blood will ensure the fun and sense of fulfilment continues. For young people there are also practical rewards such as enhancing CVs with diverse voluntary work experience.

Don't be shy and think your ideas and contributions will not be welcomed. This is Killearn, folks! Killearn has great community spirit, whether something irks or inspires you, you have a voice that will be welcomed.

The last ten years has seen Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) achieve all the aims you identified in the Community Development Plan. Seriously, we actually have – culminating with our fabulous Village Hall. We're not complacent, though, and we need to look to the next ten years. All you young people out there, this is your community, too. You have a chance to mould and shape it. Don't be shy or backward in coming forward, we all increasingly depend on each other.

Everyone in the village can and should become a member, it costs just £1 for a year's membership. Once you are a member you can serve your community in many different ways. If you have an idea which you believe would benefit the community, tell us about it. If you would like to carry the idea through yourself, get together with a group of like-minded willing volunteers and your group could become a group within the umbrella of KCFC. Your group is instantly a charity, allowing you to access grants to put your idea into practice. We can put you in contact with those who have successfully completed projects, including the refurbishment of the Village Hall, the Childrens' Play Area, the seating area in the Woodland Cemetery, upgrading the footpath from Branziert Road North, the list goes on. Your project is already halfway to success!

If you want to start a project or just join the company:
Use the form on our website www.kcfc.co.uk
email: info@kcfc.co.uk
or contact Daye Tucker (551060)

It's Show Time in Killearn

The Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Annual Show will be held on Saturday, 31 August in our spectacular newly-renovated Village Hall.

We are expecting a good turn out both from growers and viewers, and hoping for a plentiful crop of horticultural exhibits as well as the work of artists, photographers, crafts people and bakers. There will be plenty of art from the Primary School, too.

The Show is open to entrants from Killearn and the surrounding area, and we have regular entrants from as far afield as Glasgow and Stirling. Bring along your exhibits on Friday evening between 7.30pm and 9.00pm, or the morning of the Show between 7.30am and 10.00am.

The halls open at 2.00pm and our piper will be at the door to greet you. The official opening and presentation of prizes will be at 2.30pm, and the Show closes at 4.30pm.

Teas – and our famous home made cakes – will be served in the Church Hall from 2.45pm.

Glenda Asquith (550142)



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Hadden Construction is proud to have been involved as the Main Contractor for the refurbishment and new build extension to Killearn Village Hall and we hope the Killearn community will enjoy the new facilities the hall now provides.

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Our children are wonderful – are they not?

Young people are the future and we should encourage them to experience life and mature as happy, responsible citizens.

How sad then that a few, possibly through ignorance and parental neglect, have been putting new meaning into the term ‘wild camping’ in recent years.

Last year there were several more instances of campfire parties and wild camping in the Killearn Glen and Crowhill Field. Properly conducted one would encourage such pursuits.

In many instances, however, the difficulties arising are all too plain to see. Abandoned fires are set on top of the grass with no fire pit, with no attempt being made to clear up or rectify the damage. For example:

- ◆ The litter left is often considerable. Particularly unpleasant is the habit of throwing cans and aerosols which explode into the fires, together with smashing glass bottles.
- ◆ Beer, vodka and other drinks bottles are often thrown far and wide around the camp sites, too.
- ◆ They make no provision for personal waste disposal.



- ◆ These camp sites are easily located the following day, simply follow the trails of discarded bottles, sweet and biscuit wrappers.

On the evening of Friday, 31 May 2013, a fire was lit in the field against an ancient tree stump which is central to an extensive rabbit warren. The stump has been damaged and the rabbits would have been terrified and asphyxiated. Litter as described was strewn around.

Overnight camping occurred within the copse of trees beyond the same stump on Saturday, 1 June 2013. The site was cleared fairly well except for a large fire which was set beneath the canopy of the trees.

As with the stump, these trees may be part of the heritage of the Place of Killearn which is the subject of professional as well as local archaeological investigation. The

principal item left behind on this occasion was an ornamental metal chair purloined from Abbeyfield House.

Tuesday, 4 June 2013, was a beautiful day. Another camp was set up in the copse and vacated early. Neighbours have reported being disturbed by considerable noise through the night. The large fire was reset under



the canopy and could still not be extinguished at 10:30am on 5 June. Much debris was left behind – sleeping bags, two tents, clothing, litter, etc.

It is not unknown for tents to be abandoned; the cost must not matter. Maybe it's because they save money – as evidenced by the litter, often including child concession Strathblane to Killearn bus tickets.

A. Nony Mous

Weaving and Dyeing

Do you enjoy crafting with wools, silks and other fibres? Come and meet others who do too.

The West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers meet in Milngavie Library and Community Centre on the second Saturday of each month from September through May. We share skills in weaving, spinning and dyeing and also related crafts including knitting, crochet, felting and rag rug making.

We have a programme of talks and workshops, some with visiting tutors, others with specialists from within the membership as there is a large pool of skills and experience within the Guild. You don't need to know how to do it – come along and learn.

We start this session on 14 September at 10am with ‘Pictures from the Past’ – a presentation on the fashions of our grandparents and great-grandparents. In the afternoon we will have an informal catch up, some of us will bring ongoing projects – like spinning or tapestry weaving. Or just come for a blether.

You may come along to a meeting as a visitor. Your first meeting will not cost anything. If you decide not to join (which only costs £20) but wish to come to subsequent meetings, we will ask you to pay £5 each meeting towards expenses.

Visit our website www.weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk. or e-mail enquiry@weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk, or phone our membership secretary Caroline on 07900 361876.

The Embroiderers' Guild

The Embroiderers' Guild's aim to introduce and support the joy of stitching.

Strathendrick Branch meets in Killearn Kirk Hall on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May. The morning is spent stitching, normally with lots of tea and coffee and chatting together. The afternoon has a presentation which is also open to visitors for a small fee of £2.50. The members are also able to access courses and exhibitions run by the Guild. In addition, the branch has a small lending library and a ‘shop’ with an eclectic selection of fabrics and fibres for members.

There is also a branch of the Young Embroiderers, who meet in the McLintoch Hall in Balfron on the fourth Saturday from September to March.

Why not come along and find out more on the first day of the new embroidering year, 17 September? we are around from 10.30 – 3. If you'd like to know more about the Embroiderer's Guild go to www.embroiderersguild.com.

Heather Wright

Banjo's Race for Life



The Greyhound Awareness League (GAL) helpline received the call from a vet nurse in Alexandria to say that two greyhounds (Rudi and Banjo) were booked in to be euthanized. GAL agreed to accept them and the owner was informed, but when the dogs arrived at the surgery, it was Rudi and Giles (Banjo's brother). Several weeks passed and just when GAL thought Banjo was lost to them, the owner contacted them directly. Banjo was brought in to GAL in

very poor condition – he had the worst teeth they have ever seen, he was underweight and his skin was very dry and flaky. He was only 4 years old and appeared a good natured, friendly dog from day one, but the smell from his breath was gut churning.

GAL had to fast-track him through the foster queue for vet treatment, but before the vet could operate, Banjo was prescribed a week's antibiotics as his mouth was severely infected. During that week when he was cared for by one of GALs dedicated foster carers, he was in a great deal of pain and he really struggled to eat anything. It was apparent that he had been suffering like this for some time.

The date of his next vet appointment arrived and poor Banjo had 34 of his teeth removed in one day. He is now left with only 8 good teeth!

Initially food kept falling out of his mouth, but Banjo has quickly adapted. Now pain free, he has a renewed love of food and developed a habit of treating the kitchen as his walk-through-all-you-can-eat buffet. Pork chops, packets of bacon, blocks of cheese, chicken wings, sausages and pizza have all been snaffled by Banjo. His skin and weight have improved quickly due to the twice weekly baths with coal tar shampoo and his own diligence in eating highly nutritious food!

Banjo now has a 'forever home' in Killlearn with the Watt family. It has been a bit of a challenge for this ex-racing greyhound with four chickens, two rabbits, a cat and another dog to get used to! GAL were fantastic through the whole adoption process and provided a step-by-step plan on how to introduce Banjo to the rest of the family pets. Initially he had to keep a muzzle on as he had been trained to chase small furry things and he can still run fast and could do a lot of damage even with only eight teeth!

Gwenda says, 'We were under no illusions and expected it to take months to re-train him. We are so proud of Banjo and how quickly he has adjusted, within three weeks the muzzle was off and we are able to let him off the lead in the garden. We are still working on some "boundaries" with him but, considering his background, he is doing really well. He is a lovely, affectionate, laid back dog, who spends most of his time sleeping upside down. He loves going for walks, but equally loves to sleep – greyhounds do not need a huge amount of exercise every day. He is great with kids and is very responsive to training. To think he has lived in kennels for his four short years and was about to be put to sleep without ever experiencing a loving home really upsets me.'

Some greyhounds are not as lucky as Banjo. The Greyhound Awareness League is run entirely by volunteers, and have lots of dogs like Banjo who are looking for a home. There will be an opportunity to donate money to GAL at the Killlearn Country Market on 7 September.

If you would like to contact them please phone 0870 888 7277. For further information go to www.gal.org.uk and GAL is on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Greyhound-Awareness-League-GAL.

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Killearn Primary School News

Health and Wellbeing Week by Jack & Rachael (*Killearn Primary Pressgang*)

Monday, 27 May saw the start of Health Week in Killearn Primary School, where the whole school took part in activities to do with health and wellbeing.



Primary 1 Cool Golf

The activities focussed on healthy bodies and minds, and made us all think about what we need to do to stay healthy. Activities ranged



Primary 6/5 Earthball Games

from parachute games, to aerobics, orienteering, cool golf and sun safety. There was lots of work done around healthy eating, and also how to stay safe from harmful substances. A highlight



Sports Day – Basketball

of the week was playing games with parachutes and giant earth balls. The whole school made and flew kites on Friday. Some classes had visits from the dentist, some learned First Aid and others created fruity artwork. All in all, it was a fun-filled week.

The week was rounded off by a spectacularly sunny Sports Day on Monday, 3 June. The event was



Sports Day – Obstacle Race

organised and hosted by Primary 5/4 who took this on as an enterprise topic. All year groups took part in competitive long distance races and sprints in the morning, and we saw some real determination shown.

In the afternoon, children worked together in Houses to take part in events such as an obstacle course, basketball and throwing at targets. ‘Squeezy weezy’, which involved moving water using a sponge came as a welcome relief from the heat! Thanks to P5/4 for such a great day.



Primary 7/6 Reading Outdoors

We have also been enjoying taking part in the ‘Large School Tournament’, organised by Mr Black, Headteacher of Balforn Primary. The event will culminate with a tournament between Killearn, Strathblane and Balforn Primary Schools on Monday, 24 June. This tournament saw each school field 7-a-side football and netball teams, competing with a fair play focus. This has been great to take part in and to watch.

Budding Gardeners

As part of their eco remit, Primary 6/5 have been working hard to improve the school grounds. They have planted a selection of vegetables in the school garden and have repainted the tubs and raised beds in the playground.

They have also teamed up with Killearn Growers to care for the tubs in Buchanan Road. The children have been enjoying working with Jenny and Sandra to replant and tidy up the tubs. They have gratefully received a lovely selection of bedding plants from neighbours, and are looking forward to seeing their hard work bloom! *AW*



Killearn Primary School End of Year Celebrations

June always seems to pass in a flash in school, and this year has been no exception. After learning about Africa, Eva Mailer (P7) shown in photograph 4, organised for dozens of books to be donated and shipped to Malawi. These are on their way to schools and hospitals as part of the Raven's Trust project.

A special concert was held on Friday, 21 June, to thank parents, carers and members of the community who have helped out over the past year. At this event, which was organised and hosted by the children of P6/5, guests were treated to a host of musical performances, before a beautiful party tea.

We said a fond farewell to P7 children at their Leaver's Assembly on Wednesday, 27 June (Photograph 1). The audience were transported forward in time to the year 2033, where the children shared their hopes and dreams for the future. Responsibilities were handed over to newly elected House Captains, and the annual prize giving saw achievements recognised. This year's prize winners were:

Junior Citizenship: Katie Henderson (P5/4) and Munro Dunlop (P5/4) (Photograph 5);

Citizenship: Eva Mailer (P7) (Photograph 6);

Ogilvie Award for Achievement: Matthew Anderson (P7/6) (Photograph 2);

Best Team was awarded jointly to the Athletics and the Lacrosse teams for their successes in competition this year;

Winning House: Maple (House Captains Hannah Gibson and Jack Rice);

Winning House in Sports: Beech (House Captains Kim Denton and Eva Mailer).

Also moving up are children from Killearn Primary

Nursery class. Hankies were essential for their leaving ceremony where a slide show presentation showed the children's learning throughout the year. The Nursery children presented Mrs Craigie with a beautiful piece of artwork, shown in photograph 3, that they had been working on for her.

Best wishes to all the children who will be joining Primary 1, and to those moving on to high school.



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Killearn 10k 2013 Race Report

Well done to everyone who took part in the inaugural Killearn 10k, and what a fantastic day it was! The build up to the day saw temperatures soar, and the blue skies were cloudless as last minute preparations were carried out. Registration started at 9am, but with the event being a sell-out, most runners started to appear at the Black Bull nearer 10am. Killearn Primary PTA also launched their Fun Day



and BBQ in order to give spectators and locals the opportunity to take part in the entertainment. There was a buzz in the car park before guest starter, David Grevemberg (CEO Glasgow 2014), gathered the runners by the Buchanan Monument to remind everyone about Health and Safety on the route. With anticipation and nerves building, our piper led out the runners to the start line by the War Memorial and they went off exactly at 11am.

This beautiful route is not one for the faint hearted and the heat certainly added to the challenge. The Scouts did a fantastic job keeping the runners hydrated out on the track and some helpful locals were hosing hot heads on Ibert Road – a greatly appreciated shower.

Gordon Curran of Maryhill Harriers took an early lead and ran a strong race throughout. With a small pack battling it out just a minute behind him, he kept up the pace and looked comfortable across the finish. Coming in second, Will Hensman ran a fine race and Peter Harper managed to stride into third place, also achieving the first local G63 male runner home. Only a couple of minutes later, and in an incredible ninth place overall, Stephanie Hannigan (unattached) came through as first woman home in 42.49s, more than two minutes ahead of her female competitors and laying down an incredible time which will really take some beating. Fiona McCue and Kim Stewart followed shortly thereafter, achieving excellent times. The first 50 runners recorded sub 50 minute

finishing times, which is remarkable given the terrain and temperatures, but demonstrates the calibre of entrants attracted to the Killearn 10k. Jude Holt, first local G63 female runner, recorded an impressive 47.36s and the U20 winners were Ailsa Peters (58.22s) and, in his first ever 10k, Euan Michie (46.55s). Well done all the winners. A special mention should also go out to Killearn Football Club who flooded the field in their black and white tops, a great team effort and some fantastic performances in there, too. With marshals full of encouragement and enthusiasm, all the resilient runners were soon racing through the finish line at Killearn Park to be efficiently greeted by the Brownies and Cubs handing out medals, water, bananas and goody bags to all finishers.

You need only look at the official photographs to feel the glows of triumph radiating from all the finishers! The sun continued to shine down on everyone as participants and supporters made their way back up to the Black Bull for hydration and

sustenance, provided by the Black Bull and PTA BBQ. All winners were presented with medals and prizes by David Grevemberg, generously provided by Mulberry Bush Montessori, The Co-operative, Killearn Health and Fitness, Killearn Hoolie and Bridge of Allan Run4it.

To see the full results and runners photos log on to:

www.killearn10k.com

There has been a huge amount of positive feedback from the runners who have commented on the fantastic views, the experience of running through the bluebell woods along the route, and the support from the volunteers along the way. Runners came from all over Scotland, many of whom had never been to the area before and who left impressed with the village and scenery, promising to come back next year.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic contribution and support from the local community, people and businesses who turned up on the day to help with the huge range of tasks needed to make the event run safely and smoothly. Last, but not least, many thanks to the Killearn 10k Race Committee for their extraordinary dedication and commitment in organising such a fantastic event. Roll on Killearn 10k 2014, confirmed for Saturday, 7 June 2014 which is also the first day of the Killearn Hoolie Gala Week.

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Killearn Tennis Club

Killearn Tennis Club's 2013 season is well under way. Social tennis is available for adult members on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, and the Wednesday sessions in particular have been very well attended. Saturday afternoons in April and May saw two very popular special events: the start-of-season Open Day and the Family Day where juniors and seniors partnered each other in an American tournament. As always, coaching for young people aged between 4 and 16 over the school holidays has been a major feature of the Club's summer programme. There will also be an Autumn coaching block.



As regards more competitive tennis, the club championships have now started and will continue throughout the summer. Finals will take place on 14 and 15 September. Once again, the club entered a Ladies Team and two Gents Teams in the Tennis Central Leagues, with Morag Gibb, Iain Georgeson and Craig Potter thanked for the enormous amount of work they have put in as team captains. The Ladies Team was supported by a large group of enthusiastic players, and ended their matches with away-wins against Dollar and Stirling. The Club is very grateful to all the members who turned out for the Gents Teams, but is keen to broaden the pool of players. Anyone who wants to play competitive tennis should contact the Club, where they will be made very welcome and invited to play at team practice sessions.

For most of the past year, the Club has been organising refreshments at the monthly Country Market. Funds raised through the sale of tea, coffee and cakes have made a very welcome contribution to Club income, and a big thank-you is due to all members who have helped this year with baking or serving on the day.

The Club is also now working closely with Kerrie and Steven at the Black Bull, on a series of social occasions: members gathered to watch the Men's Finals on the Black Bull's big screen, and enjoy the hotel's food and drink!

Killearn Tennis Under Twelves



The Killearn U12 tennis team faced stiff competition playing teams from Stirling, Falkirk, Dunblane and Linlithgow.

After a slow start to the summer's matches, the team ended on a high, comprehensively beating Falkirk in their last match on 29 June.

Competition throughout the games was tough but the team gained valuable match practice, and their enthusiasm and confidence grew rapidly which, bodes well for the team's future success.

The Killearn match pool was made up of Jack McLaren, Harry Hudson, Angus Boerman, Miles Boerman, Fiona Douglas, Sarah Gibb, James Girvan, Callum Howie, Lewis Forbes, Scott Forbes and Callum Docherty.



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Back row, L to R: Harry Hudson, Angus Boerman;
Front row L to R: Miles Boerman, Jack McLaren.

Strathendrick Football Club



L to R: Jenna Clark, Jack Rice, Ross Michie;
L to R: Craig Stewart, Ross Stewart.

Strathendrick Football Club 2001s are moving up to 11-a-side football after the summer, and the coaching staff have been busy making sure that they will be ready. Since finishing their development phase the staff have been working to prepare for the new season. We have acquired a sponsor in RS100 Music Systems and Mr. Roddy Stewart, who has generously bought the new home and away kits for the team.

We are also delighted to announce that we will be playing our home games in Kippen in agreement with Kippen Sports Development. Finding a home venue was a top priority and the facilities in Kippen made it an easy first choice. Thanks go to Mr.

Tom Connelly and his committee for agreeing to give the 2001s a home venue to be proud of.

Strathendrick 2001s take in players from several villages, including Balfroun, Killlearn and Strathblane, and are always looking for new players to join and compete for places.

‘The players have worked hard and are ready for the step up to competitive football. In our agreements with Roddy and Kippen we aim to move forward as a club, and we know the players are determined to do their best. It is exciting times for Strathendrick 2001s.’

The new season starts on 17 August, and the club welcomes everyone to come along and support the players.

Killlearn Football Club

With half of the Forth & Endrick season for 2013 now completed, Killlearn FC find themselves in the lower part of the league after several disappointing results. Despite playing well at times, the lack of converting goal-scoring chances and the constant habit of gifting opponents the easiest of opportunities to score, has resulted in the loss of most games by the closest of margins. The management team are confident of an improvement in results in the second part of the season.

A total of 20 runners from present and past players took part in the Killlearn 10k run, and all should be congratulated on their efforts in the day's blistering heat. Simon Sweeney finished in the top ten with a time of 43 minutes, and Euan Michie was the first under-20 back home. The club and runners would like to thank everyone for their support and sponsorship – almost £1,000 was raised towards the changing rooms fund.

The committee are in the process of submitting applications for grants towards the cost of the Pavilion, and have met with the Playpark Group and the Community Council regarding the relocation of the see-saw and swings to positions satisfactory to all parties. It is hoped that by late summer all will be in place for the work to commence.

DB

Rugby Round Up

With the excitement of the British and Irish Lions tour to Australia and the Scotland team's summer tour to South Africa still fresh in the memory, Strathendrick Rugby Club members young and old are looking forward to the start of the new season.

The Strathendrick Minis (P3–P7 age groups) launch their season with an Open Day and Family BBQ at Fintry Sports Centre on Sunday, 25 August. All players – old and new – are most welcome to come and join in.

Starting on the same day are Strathendrick Midis (secondary school age groups) running teams at S1/2 (Under 14) and S3/4 (Under 16) level. Sunday, 25 August, will be the first day of training at the Club – new recruits are most welcome.

See the Club website www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc for details.

The Midi and Youth sections – Under, Under 16s and Under 18s – are again this season being run in close collaboration with Balfroun High School: a most successful partnership. The S1/2s generally meet on Sundays as well as training at school; the U16s and U18s will train at school and play matches on Saturdays.

The seniors have been training for some weeks now – led by new Club Captain and Killlearn man, Ritchie Bruce. SRFC play their first competitive game of the season against Irvine on



Strathendrick's Mikey Heron meets Scotland 7s squad Captain Colin "Budgie" Gregor – a former Balfroun and Strathendrick player himself

Saturday, 24 August, at Fintry in the RBS West Shield.

And the Club are really grateful to the anonymous *Courier* reader who kindly donated to the Rugby Club two pairs of tickets – plus hospitality – for the Emirates Airlines Glasgow Sevens. It was a fantastic weekend of rugby at Scotstoun Stadium with a galaxy of world stars playing some delightful exhibition rugby. The tickets were entered into a prize draw to raise funds for the Club and the Heron family had a brilliant time enjoying the sport and meeting the stars. Thank you, mystery benefactor!



Coming Soon to a City Near You!



Following the fantastic success of the London 2012 Olympics, it is now Glasgow's turn to host a world sporting event, to welcome people from across the globe and to showcase our fine country.

The Commonwealth Games is an international, multi-sport event involving 71 teams of athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The event was first held in 1930 and takes place every four years. Glasgow 2014 will be the 20th Commonwealth Games and will be held from 23 July to 3 August. It will feature 17 sports in 11 days of competition with 261 medal events on show. The Games will play host to 4,500 athletes and sell 1,000,000 tickets with the event aided by an army of 15,000 volunteers. A unique feature of these Games is an integrated programme of able-bodied and paralympic sports.

The intention is that these should be a Games for everyone with a relevance to every community in Scotland. People from far and wide and of all ages want to be part of the Games and Glasgow 2014 had an incredible 50,811 online applications to be one of the Games Times volunteers, with 38 per cent of these from young people aged between 16 and 25. Having started the selection process in April, around 1,000 people a week will be interviewed until December: the interviewees themselves being trained volunteers!

A further 60,000 people across Scotland have got involved in the Games for Scotland programme, allowing people to try new sports and cultural activities.

Building excitement about the largest sporting and cultural event Scotland will ever host, Clyde, the Games Mascot, is travelling the length and breadth of the country, meeting and greeting young people while informing them about the opportunity they have to play their own part in Glasgow 2014.

As well as thousands of youngsters in schools across the country, Clyde has rubbed shoulders with a number of well-known names including the Duchess of Cambridge, Sir Chris Hoy and boxing's golden girl, Nicola Adams.

Glasgow 2014 promises an accessible, affordable and family-friendly Games with a minimum of 70 per cent of tickets for every sport session going to the general public and two-thirds to be priced at £25 or less. Tickets go on sale on 19 August: around 1 million tickets will be up for grabs and tickets for all sports start at £15 for adults (inclusive of public transport), with half-price tickets available at all sports for Under 16s and Over 60s. Applying for tickets should be straightforward with payment being accepted by cheque and credit card; by post as well as online. Like all previous Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2014 will run a fair and simple application process: a draw that gives everyone the opportunity to apply for the tickets they want.

Glasgow's city landscape has been transformed by the emergence of iconic venues ready for Commonwealth Games action, including Tollcross International



Swimming Centre and Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails. The venues will meet the international standards required to host a Commonwealth Games, and will also provide world-class facilities to be used by young people, aspiring and professional athletes and local communities for years to come.

Alongside the main sporting event, Glasgow will be hosting a series of cultural activities brought together under the banner of Glasgow Life – more of that in our next edition.

And one further inclusive venture: the Queen's Baton Relay. Modelled on the Olympic Torch Relay – but covering many more miles – the Baton visits every nation and territory of the Commonwealth before travelling the length and breadth of Scotland on its way to its final destination: the Opening Ceremony on 23 July. The QBR will connect the Commonwealth. It is global, but also local, as the relay will engage with schools and communities throughout Scotland.

What are you doing with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games? Whether as a spectator or a volunteer, whether trying a sport for the first time or visiting one of numerous cultural events, do make the most of this once in a generation opportunity. *NH*

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Curling Sweep Up

The 2012/13 curling season of Strathendrick Curling Club finished with the Annual General Meeting and prize presentation held at Glengoyne Distillery in April. At the meeting George Harris completed his term as President and handed over to Sheila Sturrock. Although Sheila lives in Bearsden, she will be well known to many in Killlearn, as she is also a member of the Inner Wheel.



The AGM ended with a special presentation to John Phillips of his 50-year membership badge from the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, together with an engraved decanter to mark the

occasion. This was presented by former RCCC President Gifford Rickard, and a number of John's curling colleagues attended as well as his wife, Helen. The photograph shows John, wearing his medal, with Helen, daughter Jane and granddaughter Kim.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at The Peak in Stirling. The Spring League was won by Donnie MacDonald's team of Archie Banks, George Harris and John O'Neill, who only lost one match. Bob Glass's team of Gill Smith and John Anderson with substitutes for the fourth member were second.



The main club season finished with a fun closing bonspiel. In this, everyone moved places in the team after two ends, so some rather worried leads finished up playing as skips! The end result was a win for Archie Bank, Bob Glass, Richard Kingslake and Sandy Park.

The Ladies Section played Leagues at Stirling on Thursday mornings. The winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League was Pat Rodger's team of Rita Harris, Marion Richardson

and Rita Hallam. This was Pat's first ever victory in a league, so she was absolutely delighted.

The Ladies Section finished their season with a bonspiel. This was played at The Dewar's Centre in Perth. The competition was won by Rita Barth's team of special guest and former member, Kate Walker, who came down from Pitlochry, Fiona Glass and a new member for next season, Luisella Mosley of Buchanan Castle Estate. Luisella was on the ice for only the third time.

Maurice Rennie was the main club Curler of the Year and Pat Rodger was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The club had a disappointing year in the Province competitions. There were no wins, but we were second in the Robert Paterson Shield, third in the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl bonspiel, and fourth in the Forest Hills League.

John Phillips was in the winning team for the Grand Masters bonspiel for players over 70, which took place at Greenacres. This is John's second win in this event.

The Club again held a Dinner at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. As well as the dinner we were entertained by Suzi Falconer's singing accompanied by Ros Macgowan.

As a tribute paid to Helen Loudon, who had been a member of the club for around forty years. The photograph (right) shows her at one her most important curling days: the Braehead at the Millennium Indoor Grand Match in 2000.



The club has a good mix of competitive and less competitive curling, and caters for all ranges of abilities. In addition it also has a range of social events including a golf outing, summer barbeque, Dinner and New Year Meander.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling, contact:

Fiona Glass (550646) or Gill Smith (550726) or look at our website www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

Petitions Panel Hears Boquhan Speed Concerns

Stirling Council's Petitions Panel travelled to Balfron today to hear representations from Boquhan residents on the speed of traffic through the village.

Petitions Panel Chair Councillor Steven Paterson said, 'The Panel heard from residents of Boquhan, who described the distress being caused to them by traffic travelling at speed through the village. A range of possible measures were suggested that may improve matters, and the merits and resource implications of each was considered.'

Petitioners requested that speed limits be reduced, citing dangerous bends on that stretch of road. The petition was left open to allow Council Officers to work with the community, as the road is scheduled to be resurfaced over the summer. This will allow rumble strips and improved road markings to be installed. Once the work is completed, any improvements will be evaluated in a future update.



Petition Panel Chair Councillor Steven Paterson (centre) accepts the Road Safety Petition from local residents and petitioners James Allan (centre, right) and John Blanche (far, left) with fellow Panel Members Councillors Corrie McChord and Mark Ruskell, local Councillors Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead and local people who attend the meeting



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£1m Fund to Preserve Memory of Scotland's War Dead



War memorials across the Stirling area stand to benefit from £1 million in new funding designed to ensure the restoration and enhancement of war memorials ahead of next year's 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I.

The Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund will pay for the upgrade and maintenance of memorials in villages, towns and cities in Scotland that pay tribute to those who gave their lives during both world wars and other conflicts. The new fund will help people in Scottish communities continue to pay their respects to those who fell during conflict through the upkeep of war memorials.

Scotland's war memorials – from the magnificent to the more modest – pay tribute to those fallen and will be an important part of the commemorations in communities the length and breadth of the country during 2014.

There are some memorials in Scotland in need of upgrade to get them up to standard for the commemorations. The Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund will offer grants to those who care for these important monuments for repair work to be carried out.

Any enquiries about grants should be sent to:

Historic Scotland Investment Team, Longmore House,
Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH.
Tel: 0131 668 8801; email hs.grants@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Allan C. Macreath 1943 – 2013

Allan ('A.C.MAC') was born and raised in Milngavie, and educated at Kelvinside Academy. It was here that he discovered his enthusiasm for sports, particularly golf, playing off Scratch as a junior. He started his career in accountancy and whilst apprenticed to Thomas Kelly and Co, he met a young lady who quite frankly took his breath away and continued to do so for 50 years, his darling wife Gail.

He went on to become General Manager of Littlewoods Pools, Hillington and with Gail and daughter Felicity moved to Killearn in 1972. Here the family, increased by two more daughters, Samantha and Emily, settled happily, playing an active role in village life

Allan enjoyed all that Killearn and its surroundings had to offer; tramping the hills, sailing his Topper on Loch Lomond and roaring around in his Morgan, kids clinging on at the back in yet another perilous family adventure. He loved golf and was a member at Buchanan Castle, a Captain at Strathendrick and a founding member of the Killearn Shankers, a band of golfing brothers which continues to this day.

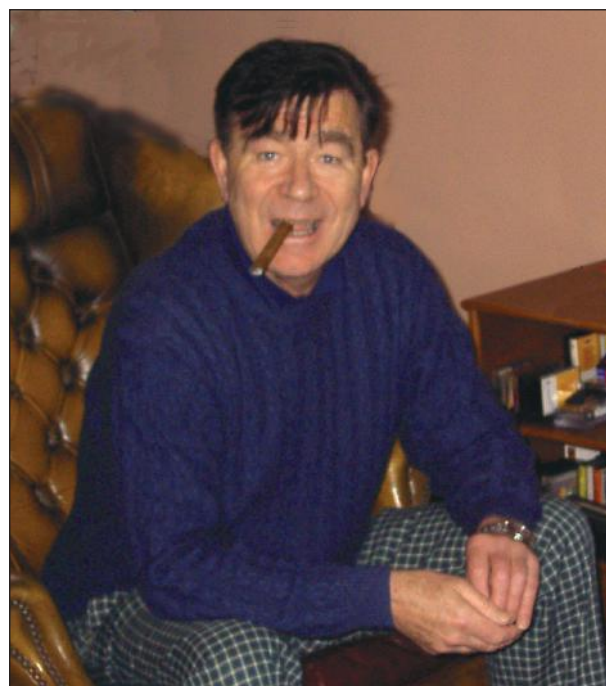
He loved literature and was an avid reader but was also a wonderful storyteller, a captivating raconteur delighting friends at the Old Mill and family at home. He made childhood an enchanting time for his daughters and later for his grandchildren, Magnus and Logan. In his final days he started carving a Native American Totem Pole. It stands in his garden and the entire family is to have a hand in carving and painting it. His stories, humour and imagination will be woven into it.

A celebration of his life held in Killearn Kirk was attended by a large congregation and a collection for Strathcarron Hospice raised over £1000. For this, the family would like to express their thanks.

Allan will be remembered as a gifted and courteous gentleman.

Thank you for being our Dad. Oodles of love.

F, S and E Macreath



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Tessa Fortune-Fraser 1934–2013

Tessa Fortune-Fraser (née McAulay) was born and brought up in Anderson, Glasgow, and was one of five children. Tessa was educated at Garnethill school. Daughter of a Glasgow University cook, she was a regular church-goer and found great strength from her Catholic faith throughout her life.

She was married to John Fortune-Fraser for 59 years. Together with her husband, a self-made entrepreneur, they built one of Europe's largest steel stockholders, as well as other successful interests in property and entertainment. John always counted Tessa as his 'rock and backbone'.

The success of this business meant that Tessa and John regularly travelled the world, but her heart always lay in Scotland. She lived in Glasgow until 1975, when she moved with her family to Killearn. Later the family moved to Drymen, but Tessa, having always loved the village, moved back to Killearn to be beside her children and grandchildren. Tessa lived very happily there until her death.

One of Tessa's greatest passions was charity. She was the first female chairman of the Variety Club of Great Britain Scottish committee, where she served for some 20 years on the main committee as deputy chairman and then chairman alongside her husband.

The children's charity concentrates on increasing

positive experiences for sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people, a cause that was extremely important to both Tessa and her husband John. She worked tirelessly to raise money for many Sunshine Coaches and mobility aids to give these young people more independence. Tessa especially enjoyed meeting the children that she worked so hard to help. Indeed, she has a Sunshine Coach named after her.

She contributed to countless other charities throughout Scotland, often wishing to remain an anonymous.

Tessa, although petite in frame, was a larger than life figure – energetic, glamorous and a selfless individual who was devoted to John. She is survived by John, her children, Tessa, Ian, Fiona and Gregor, 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She will be sadly missed.

TH



James (Jim) Snadden 1944–2013



Jim Snadden, born in Glasgow, and educated at Victoria Drive Secondary School, then completed a Marine Engineering apprenticeship at Fairfield Rowan shipyard in conjunction with Stow College. He joined Blue Funnel shipping company and gained all his engineering qualifications through the Nautical College in Glasgow. He spent his entire working life at sea, the last eight years of which were with P&O high-speed Irish Ferries. He and his wife, Doreen, and two children, Michael and Fiona, came to live in Killearn in 1975. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and loved sharing with his family his own joy in the natural world, his love of camping, hillwalking and skiing. He relished serving as a part-time Scout leader when he was at home.

His experiences on the seas were often adventurous and sometimes dangerous. He was discreet in how much he revealed of what he had lived through and how narrowly he had sometimes escaped death. The Suez Canal in the Israeli-Arab war, the 'Persian' Gulf and the Falklands were risky scenarios even for the Merchant Navy, but Jim, renowned for his steadfastness, proved his calmness in a crisis.

Retirement enabled Jim to engage with enthusiasm in village life. He joined the Paths Group of KCFC and played a leading role in the establishment of the Southwest Stirlingshire Paths Group. He was a volunteer path inspector with the Adopt-a-Path scheme, his work being greatly valued by the Access Team and the Ranger Service of Stirling Council. He was always on hand with a spade, regardless of the weather, at every Community Action Day and readily agreed to join the Village Emergency Group, set up to cope in the event of an emergency situation.

It was a cruel irony that this physically strong and energetic man, so ready to share his gifts with his community, should be struck by grave illness early in his retirement. It is a measure of his inner strength that he fought his illness with dignity and courage for longer than predicted. A quiet and unassuming man, he leaves his family, friends and neighbours memories of one who gave much to those around him.

BP

Andy Gibb 1928–2012



Andy Gibb, who died at the end of last year, was well known in Killearn and the wider area. Born in Bishopton and brought up in Drymen, he was educated at Balfour High School. After a period employed in farm work, he served in the Tank Corps during his National Service. At the end of this he returned

to Drymen and for some time drove a delivery van for Gowan, the baker. He married Margaret, from Blane Smithy, and was employed as a milk tanker driver for Strathendrick Farmers for 31 years. On the closure of the company, he worked at Moor Farm Quarry, Strathblane, until retiring in 1993. For some years, from the convenience store run by his wife, Andy would provide a much appreciated service of supplying newspapers to staff and patients at Killearn Hospital until its closure in 1972.

His funeral, held in Drymen with full Masonic honours, was attended by a large number of mourners. A devoted family man, he is greatly missed by Margaret and their children, Peter, Agnes and Charlotte, four grandchildren and one great grandchild, as well as by his many friends.

JF

Malcolm Prescott 1957–2013

Malcolm was born and brought up in Glasgow and educated at Allan Glen's School. After studying Business Studies in Edinburgh he entered the Civil Service, working in IT for the Ministry of Defence in London, where he met Teresa.

Following their marriage, his work took them first to Wiltshire and then to

Glasgow, where Malcolm's skills in computer programming design and trouble shooting were employed by the Automobile Association at Erskine. He and Teresa settled in Killearn in 1988, and here their two sons were born.

Malcolm had a great love of sport and the natural world which influenced how he spent much of his leisure time. Hill walking and climbing, especially in northwest Scotland overlapped with wild fly fishing the tiny lochs. He was a long-standing member of Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association and could often be found with a fly rod, camera and the family elkhound walking along the Endrick. Photography skills in addition to his physical fitness led him to be an active member of Glasgow Rowing Club. If he wasn't racing with his doubles partner, he was either manning a safety boat or recording others in action on the Clyde and at various Scottish regattas. He was known for his willingness to help others and for the encouragement he gave to those who shared his interests.

His love of Scotland came second only to his love for his family, of whom he was so proud and with whom he shared his enthusiasms. His zest for life and his courage enabled him to continue to live as normally as possible in the face of a swiftly progressive illness. An unassuming and in many ways a private man, he was, nevertheless, an inspiration to many.

TP/BP

Williamina (Billie) Kendall 1923–2013



Billie Kendall came with her husband Ken (Kazik) to live in retirement in Killearn in The Square. Here they spent the last years of their 62-year marriage, becoming much loved and popular members of the community, particularly of the church and the Thursday Club.

Born and brought up in Glasgow, on leaving school, Billie went into the tobacco industry where she learned to roll cigars. On the outbreak of war she was employed on war work with Shanks Co., putting the pins into grenades. After contracting TB she spent almost a year in hospital. When recovered, she joined the company of RS McColl and attended Cadbury's College of Confectionary and received a commendation from Mr. Cadbury himself.

She met Kazik at the Plaza Ballroom in Glasgow and so began the love story of her life. Marriage was followed by the birth of two sons and, in time, five grandchildren. She was an industrious and devoted mother and homemaker, and helped her husband to find his family he had feared lost in the war in Poland.

Her church was always an important part of her life and it was here she was able to indulge her love of singing; she had a beautiful voice, which, even in her later years, gave great pleasure to many. Her love of bright colours, and her kindness and thoughtfulness for others, were hallmarks of her personality.

JK/BP

Margaret Bishop 1921–2013



Margaret Muriel Bishop was born in Cathcart, on the south side of Glasgow, in 1921. She was educated at Hutchison's Girls Grammar School, and then went on to the 'Dough School' in Glasgow, where she qualified as a domestic science teacher.

Margaret then moved to St. Helens, and taught for nearly ten years at the Cowley Girls' School. Because of family illness she had to return to Glasgow, and in 1954 she started teaching in Westbourne School for Girls, where she remained until her retirement in the early 1980s. While working in that school, Margaret bought her house in Killearn. She was

very fond of gardening, and loved plants and flowers.

In 1984 she became secretary of the Abbeyfield Killearn Society and joined the House committee and the Executive committee. Due to deteriorating eyesight, retiring in 1998. She was also a member of the Guild of Methodist Brailleists and was a proofreader for the Guild for 30 years, retiring in 1995.

Margaret was very fond of dogs and over the years had several Westies, Sally was the last one. One of the dogs went to school with Margaret, and was allowed into the classroom. Until she lost her sight she was very keen on cooking and sewing and made lots of lovely clothes for herself.

Over the last few months of her life she was greatly helped by a friend who organised a stay in Strathcarron Hospice. Margaret was very appreciative of the care she received there from all the staff. Being too frail to stay in her own house, Margaret later became a resident in Wardside House, a nursing home in Muthill, where she was shown much care and kindness. She died peacefully two weeks after her 92nd birthday. *EG*

Annie Edna McGregor 1914–2013

Edna McGregor, mother of the late Robert, and mother-in-law of Hilary, came to live in Killearn in 2003. She quickly settled in Abbeyfield, where she greatly enjoyed the company of the other residents and was soon a popular member of the house. She entered into all the social activities provided and was a



stalwart member of the Thursday Club, where she enjoyed meeting up with the members from the village.

Born and brought up in Yorkshire, she and her husband John lived in Thornaby-on-Tees, and brought up their two children, Robert and Jean.

Characterised by a forthright personality and a kind heart, Edna

spoke her mind, but only ever good of others, and exuded a zest for life that sustained her into extreme old age. Her life was studded with sadness, with her husband and both her children pre-deceasing her, yet she could greet every visitor with a radiant smile, chuckle over reminiscences, share a joke and put on the

brightest face, whatever her situation.

She was enormously proud of her grandchildren and loved it when they could visit her. It was a tribute to her personality that friends and relatives would drive many hours for a short visit to her. She spent only ten years here, but is much missed in Killearn.

BP

Ella Matthews 1930–2013



Ella Matthews was born and brought up in Glasgow where she trained in secretarial skills and also studied painting at Glasgow School of Art. She became secretary to a professor at the Western Infirmary and, later to Bill Richardson of Marley Tiles. In 1953, she married Andy Monteith. They had two sons and lived in Edinburgh for sometime and for two years in Vancouver, returning to Milngavie where Andy died suddenly in 1973. In 1975, Ella married Harold Matthews and became step-mother to his three daughters. Ella and her husband came to Killearn to live, but again sadness struck when Harold died suddenly in 1989.

Ella was a lively member of several village organisations – the WRI and the Monday Club – and was active in Killearn Kirk, where she served as an Elder for many years, was a member of the Guild and sang in the choir. A keen golfer, she was a member of both Hilton Park and Buchanan Castle clubs and once scored a hole-in-one in a tournament.

She was a keen gardener, regularly exhibiting at the Flower Show and often waging a personal war against marauding rabbits who invaded her garden. She was also a talented painter with scores of beautiful paintings to her credit.

Her latter years were saddened by the death of her son, Ian, who frequently joined her for dinner in the evenings. Despite the onset of illness, Ella remained true to her indomitable spirit. She wanted to remain at home until the end and this she was enabled to do with the assistance of health professionals and a group of loyal and supportive friends and neighbours. *JS/BP*

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

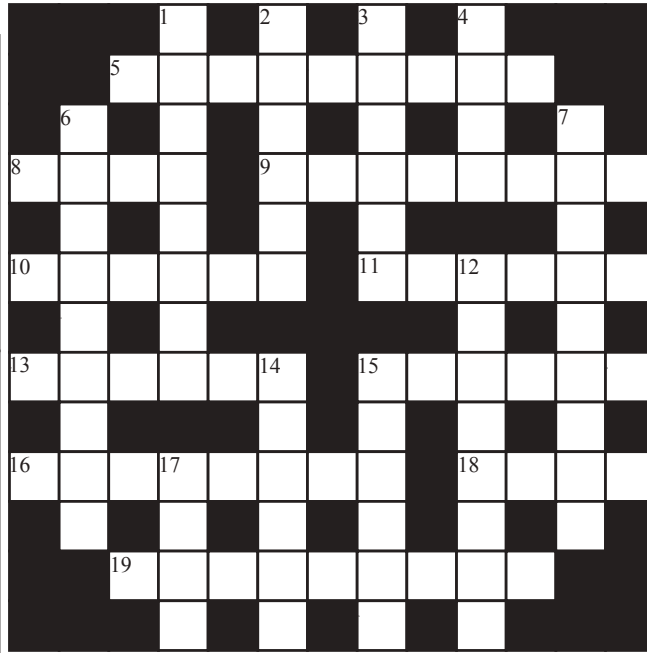
The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

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We apologise that due to a problem with the box in Spar, it was decided that it was fairest to not give the crossword prize for the last edition.



2, 11, 13, 15 down and 8 (in the USA) are all 15 acrosses and are not defined in the clue.

ACROSS

- 5. I'm mixed up mused pony by another name. (9)
- 8. Drop. (4)
- 9. Fearless actress Stubbs sounds strained. (8)
- 10/11. Calculator in Delhi?. (6,6)
- 13. Start with bury (6).
- 15. Main family member to add flavour (6)
- 16. A fool before a hill is a troublemaker. (8)
- 18. Flaked out in the middle Windermere say. (4)
- 19. He cannot sleep in the Mosaic Inn. (4)

DOWN

- 1. Biblical songster sits around lamp. (8)
- 2. Gold belly sound. (6)
- 3. Sums up lost at sea. (6)
- 4. Colourist sounds bad. (4)
- 6. Artwork makes me breathless around start of interval. (9)
- 7. Heater functions for the pyrotechnics. (9)
- 12. Edible American musician. (8)
- 14. Quota is a fraction number. (6)
- 15. Jump. (6)
- 17. Fish for an aunt maybe (4)

Name

Address

Phone

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Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Shannon Maclellan, age 9

Closing Date for both competitions – 1 September 2013. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

The Trail of the Lonesome Pine

On the night of 22 February this year, having fallen asleep on the couch whilst watching television, I awoke at 2am and stumbled into the kitchen for a glass of water. Looking out from the window at the bird feeders, I was amazed to see that the garden was hosting a very rare and beautiful visitor – a male pine marten. This cat-sized member of the weasel family was tucking into bread and apples that lay scattered for the birds at the base of the feeders, oblivious to the fact that I was gazing at him in awe. In fact, I was so mesmerized that I neglected to take any photos, but I watched him intently for 15 minutes before he slumped off out the garden.

A pine marten in Killearn. I couldn't believe it! The following few nights, I attempted to lure him back into the garden. My bait consisted of peanut butter and raspberry jam (both in sandwich form and spread along lengths of branch), and whole peanuts and apples strewn around the area. Unfortunately I never saw him again, although a neighbour's cat did enjoy the extra goodies on offer for a week or more.



Male Great Spotted Woodpeckers feeding a young bird

I had been very lucky to see such a rare animal from the kitchen window. Whilst the feeders had attracted other mammals before – stoat, hedgehog, bank vole and an unwelcome brown rat – I never dreamed that they would entertain this beauty. Yet once you go to the trouble of creating a feeding station, you never really know what might turn up.

Many people put out food for the birds during winter only, but I favour the all-year-round approach and it continues to pay dividends. Every June, we see great spotted woodpeckers feeding their recently fledged chicks on and around our feeders. The adults drill away at the peanuts all day, regurgitating at the hungry

mouths of the youngsters. The male sports a red nape and, while the adult female has no red on the head, young birds of both sexes initially have very distinctive red caps. So look out for them at the peanut feeders in your garden.

We have some fantastic wildlife in and around Killearn – and some of it will come to you!

Martin Culshaw

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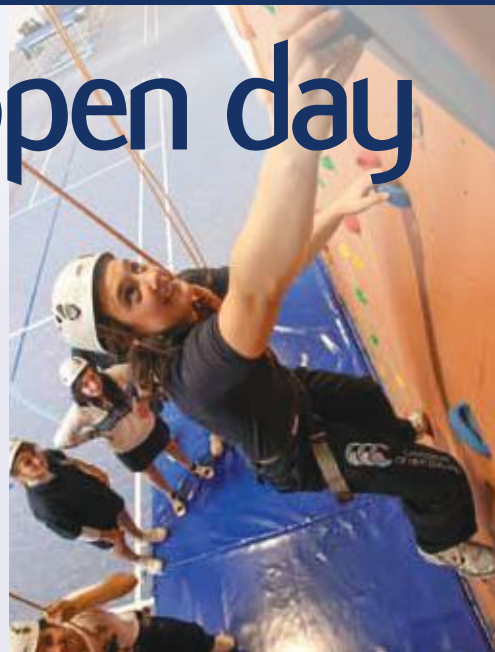
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