

Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 3

WINTER – DECEMBER 2005

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Anyone wishing to contribute to the next edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 18 March, 2006.

Advertisements and Artwork.

All adverts should be in the hands of our Advertising Executives by **Friday 3 February**. Gwen Stewart can be contacted on 01360 550865 and Sara Hudson on 01360 550806

Contributions

All contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by **Friday 3 February**. Send them to:

20 Station Road, Killearn
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TENNIS CLUB UNDER THREAT

The Killearn tennis court occupies land provided by Sir George Wilson in 1924. During the 80-year tenure of the club, relations with the Wilson Trust have traditionally been harmonious – indeed, the first president was Sir George himself. Controversy has arisen over the terms of the lease which is up for renewal in June. It is feared that if the asking price is not found to buy the land, the courts will be sold to a developer. The Trust has agreed to a 10-year plan which would increase the annual site rental from the current ‘peppercorn’ to £5,000, increasing to £15,000 after three years.

The tennis club received notification of the Trust’s intention to sell in September 2004 and have been in negotiation with Mr Andrew Wilson, representing the Wilson Trust, for the past year. The site has been valued by Saville’s at £300–360K, premised on planning permission for housing being granted. Stirling Council’s Planning Department has indicated that planning is unlikely to be granted because it is contrary to the current local plan.

The Trust has been unavailable for comment. However, in a meeting in early October with David Fulton, President of the Club, Ann Delargy and Stewart Gibb, Mr Wilson intimated that a potential developer had expressed an interest in acquiring the site, even without planning permission.

This, in turn, has raised the possibility that a developer would seek permission to reopen the issue of development in the field behind Balfron Road and Main Street in the village.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Tennis Club held on 1 October 2005, the committee gained unanimous agreement from the members to resist the sale of land by the Wilson Trust. After much discussion the Club decided to investigate the possibility of a community buy-out, this being seen as the best way of ensuring that the courts remain for future generations to enjoy. Funding for the buy-out will be sought from the Lottery Land Fund.

The community buy-out will be directed by a new company, which is in the process of being incorporated. Petitions of support have been placed in village meeting places, and members have also taken them around door-to-door. The collection of signatures – a necessary step in setting up the new company – was completed by the end of October and petitions were signed by more than 10% of the village. However, the new and as yet unnamed company will need at least 10 non-tennis club members to form part of a board of management to oversee the buy-out process.

The Club is calling for volunteers to join the board of the new company, so if you are interested, please contact:

Ann Delargy (550253) or Patsy Hutchison (550270)



**A Very Merry Christmas
to all our Readers**

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

We were lined up at the top of the stairs like something out of the *Sound of Music*. Eldest to the rear, youngest in front, which unfortunately left both my brothers – the filling in the sister sandwich – in typically unfortunate proximity. If the four girls were content to anticipate, the two boys definitely were not.

Being on point, my job was to report back down the line on the activities in the living room. If I bent down and turned my head sideways, I could look through the top set of balusters and just catch glimpses of the fireplace and boughs of the huge Christmas tree. Topped with a star, this was decorated with fragile glass ornaments as well as accumulated school Christmas projects (in an eclectic mix of media), and lit by strings of two-inch lights in blues, reds, greens and whites. These were an Artefact; much older than I; probably as old as my parents. Who knew? My brothers had only recently been initiated into the secrets of putting the lights on the tree. It was men's work.



Meanwhile, frustration was mounting in the ranks. The command was quickly passed forward that Something Had to Be Done. Just what the brothers were waiting for, and a whispered discussion rapidly concocted a plan. The line shuffled back just enough for me to kneel on the top stair. Each brother grabbed an ankle, and I was encouraged to walk on my hands down the stairs far enough to see the stockings hung on their pegs in the front window (five identical, distinguished only by embroidered names, and a single little one) and the

whole tree, with so many presents underneath that they spilled off the tree skirt and onto the floor. There were even more than there had been yesterday, for it was my duty to know these things. Then panic! and I'm unceremoniously tugged back up, and quickly report. Seconds later, my father calls us down, and Christmas begins.

Nancy Bailey 1961 USA

As someone who spent the best part of his childhood during the Second World War, I am always taken aback by the mass of toys, computer games, i-Pods, etc that the average child now receives as Christmas presents.

Each colourfully wrapped parcel is grabbed, the paper torn off, a quick thank you (if you are lucky) and it is on to the next one. I contrast that with my best ever Christmas.

I woke up to the usual pillow case at the end of

the bed, a book or two, something boringly useful like socks, and as ever, nuts, sweets and an apple in the bottom of the bag, rare treats saved over many months in times of rationing. There followed the usual excitement of Christmas morning, outside playing with the gang and comparing notes on what



Santa had brought us all. Then chicken for lunch, the King's speech on the radio, and at last, the presents from under the tree. Not the pile 'em high of a modern

Christmas, a few parcels wrapped with string, no sticky tape back then, and an unusually large parcel, with my name on it. I just couldn't imagine what it could be.

I realise now that Mum and Dad must have deliberately strung out the time, until I was almost beside myself with anticipation. The moment

arrived, I wanted to tear off the paper and string, but no, they were precious then, so I laboriously untied the knots and carefully removed the paper. And there it was revealed, a Hornby Dublo train set, and not just any train set, but a mad-keen train spotter's dream – a Coronation class loco, *The Duchess of*

Living on a farm as I did, every day was pretty much the same; my father had to oversee the milking, feeding and mucking out of 400 dairy cows – twice a day. His day started at 4.a.m. every morning and finished sometime late at night.



At Christmas time, this work had to continue but we still managed to enjoy Christmas. For me, Christmas meant me demanding that my mother send me to bed early – on the premise that Santa Claus would come early as well!

Every Christmas Eve, we had to hang up one of my father's socks on the mantelpiece and every Christmas morning it had an apple, an orange, nuts, sweets and little bits and bobs in it. We children got one 'big' present at Christmas – one year, I even got a bike!

Christmas dinner involved the five of us sitting round the kitchen table when we had pretty much the usual Christmas fare. The highlight, however, was a Cloutie Dumpling with silver thruppennies in it. We then sat round a roaring fire in the living-room listening to the wet-cell radio or one of my mother's stories.

Now that I'm (a little) older, Christmas for me is hanging up my grandchildren's stockings on Christmas Eve, getting them off to bed and, with all my family round about me, watching their faces when they get up on Christmas morning. That's the magic of Christmas!

Ian Dickie

Atholl, and *Royal Scot* coaches. Something I had always dreamed of, but didn't think my parents could possibly afford. I now see on the internet that it must have cost them £7/3/6 (allowing for inflation, that is about £151.89 today), a vast sum then, so they must have made some sacrifice to buy it. It was a toy that gave me years of pleasure, which grew into quite a large layout, and one that signalled the beginning of the end of austerity.

Peter Wilks 1948 London

EDITORIAL

Well, here we are with Issue 3 of the *Killlearn Courier*. We've changed the front page in response to some requests from you, so on that page you will find the deadline dates and contacts for submitting items as well as a list of contents.

Thanks to a contribution from Stirling Council and the continuing support of our advertisers, we are again able to produce and distribute the *Courier* at no cost to you. However, we are putting display boxes containing extra copies of the *Courier* in Spar and the butchers and are asking you to donate a minimum of 50p if you take a copy.

As regards distribution, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who assist us with the deliveries; you're doing a great job.

This issue has 4 more pages than the last edition for two reasons. One is that we are trying to accommodate all the contributions and the other is that we thought you would enjoy a 'festive' issue. After all, as you read this, Christmas is only four weeks away! There are a fair number of really good Christmas related articles, but the best are the ones submitted by some brave souls under the heading of Christmas Memories. I hope you enjoy them. Who knows, these articles might well stir up your memories of Christmas past.

Mention of the past makes you think of what 2005 brought – the aftermath of the tsunami, earthquakes, hurricanes, bombings and all sorts of horrific incidents affecting the lives of millions. We don't suffer anything like that in Killlearn, which is a nice place to live. And it is a place to live, not just a place to lay your head. It's our Village and we will only keep it as such if we make some effort in getting involved in the life of the Village. We are not a dormitory for Glasgow, we are a Community in our own right, so let's get out there and show we care by supporting the some 70 different organizations in Killlearn and their causes.

From all at the *Killlearn Courier*, we hope you have a great Christmas and a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor.

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ROAD SAFETY

Public pressure is mounting for a review of traffic calming measures following two recent road traffic accidents. One took place on the main road on October 26 along the A81 between Duntreath and Glengoyne Distillery. Six days previously, on October 21, a collision between a car and a milk lorry tragically resulted in a fatality within the village boundaries at

Branziert Road. This is a notorious black spot and has been a cause of concern and complaint from the residents for many years. Residents who have contacted the Accident Prevention Unit in the past have been told that the junction was not dangerous enough and that other areas which had been the scene of more accidents would have priority.

LETTERS

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

We reserve the right to edit letters.

Dear Sir/Madam

Thanks to the S4s from Balforn High School for all their hard work on 7th May at 'The Kingdom'.

It is good to know that the Community Woodlands Group is in talks with Stirling Council re. the management of this wood.

Management is now urgently required as everything is getting so overgrown. Professional pruning of the trees and shrubs would be a great improvement and perhaps some sort of restriction against the wood being used as a dogs' toilet would also be appreciated. In your article you mention the fact that the children very much enjoy the wasteland and this should be so. The fact is that due to the pollution from the dogs, the children come home with their footwear and sometimes their legs covered in dogs' dirt.

Also this summer youths have been using the wood as a drinking den and the police had to be informed.

Please don't think I would want everything 'manicured' as a wild wood is lovely but probably due to our wet warm winters over the past years, the growth has been exceptional and professional maintenance would be an asset. The Duke of Edinburgh Award youngsters could still do their conservation work to assist the Council.

Wishing you all success with the talks with the Council.

Yours sincerely, Mary McIlroy, Beech Drive

Note from the Editor

Mary McIlroy may be please to know that we showed her letter to the Community Woodland Group and some positive action has been the result. This is their reply:

Stirling Council was asked for a dog bin to be sited at *The Kingdom* and it is now in place.

The other points raised in the letter are part of our on-going discussions. Stirling Council intends to consult with the community about *The Kingdom* and will be having a meeting. Any opinions, ideas, complaints or praise will be gratefully received from anyone in the community, not just the immediate neighbours and users of *The Kingdom*. They can contact Willie Hammil at Community Services, Stirling Council; KCFC, or the Community Woodland Group. Stirling Council will continue to be responsible for *The Kingdom* and has every intention of keeping it as a *Community Amenity Woodland*. They are pleased that the Community Woodland Group exists to give the community a voice in the management. JY

Dear Editor

The *Killlearn Courier* is very interesting and informative. The only complaint is concerning the ad. for Drymen Pottery – it is in extremely poor taste. I notice the disclaimer for the *Courier* not being responsible for the content of advertisements, but surely someone should have queried the wording!

Yours etc.,

Elizabeth Brown

Save the Old School - Update

It has been said recently that the Old School has fallen off the village radar. Writing grant proposals is not 'sexy'; only success makes good headlines. Yet the proposals must be written and the presentations must be given in order to guarantee that the Old School is brought back into use for the village.

The *Use It Or Lose It* campaign is proving to be a success. The first wave of this exercise was an information leaflet put through every door in the village, and asking for a donation. Contributions remain one of the most obvious ways for the community to prove it supports the Old School project. The Old School was front page news in this paper, with an article emphasising the risk of losing the site altogether unless the village supports the "Use It or Lose It" campaign. Finally, the BBQ at the end of August raised both awareness and over £400. We received a grant for £299 from Stirling Council to pay for the costs of the licenses and entertainment, and we thank them for their support.

It was wonderful to see such a mix of villagers at the BBQ; it was particularly nice to see so many teenagers. Young and old alike had a great time. Many of those who brought their young children along had never had cause to wander down the lane before, so the size and potential of the site was a surprise to them. An information stand helped everyone understand the exciting plans for the building and the site, and donation flyers were also available.

They were right to be excited. The plans for the building and the site only require a little imagination and a lot of determination. The success of the "Use It or Lose It" campaign is vital to show Stirling Council, The Big Lottery, The Carnegie Foundation, the Tudor Trust and all the other funding bodies that Killearn has the will to see this project through – that the village is behind it.



The rain didn't dampen the success of the BBQ

To date the "Use it or Lose it" campaign has raised £4,600. That's about £1.84 for every man, woman and child in this village. We deserve better and can surely do better than that.

Are you content for Killearn to be just another bedroom suburb of Glasgow? If so, you won't mind losing the Old School and you won't mind that the village has:

- ◆ no football changing rooms,
- ◆ no place for Scouts, or Beavers or Cubs,
- ◆ no supervised youth group,
- ◆ no place to hold art classes,
- ◆ no BBQ after the Flower Show,
- ◆ no place for displaying information leaflets,
- ◆ no place for a farmers' market or a Christmas market.

The Old School is simply a building. It's not only for a few groups, it's for the whole village.

There is an idea that a basic amount of work on the Old School will see the place up and running – strip out the asbestos, patch the roof, repair the toilets, and repaint. Only then, when its popularity is established, would it be time to go after the 'bells



The Old School forms a backdrop to the BBQ

and whistles'. This is a false economy. Once capital grants are sought for a building, it is virtually impossible to tap into those funds again. The vision for the Old School isn't premised on a building *plus added extras*. The 'bells and whistles' are an integral part of a proposal which would see the Old School able to wash its own face – which is the *very least* it must be able to do.

Projects like this take a long time. The new facilities in Dunblane took over 8 years (and a terrible tragedy). We have been working for just over 3 years.

Administrative changes in Stirling Council mean that the Old School project is under review. Stirling aims to make a decision in January or February 2006. It really is "Use It or Lose It".

How can you help?

First, become a member of Killearn Community Futures. The Company already has over 100 members and would be delighted to have more. Numbers count.

Second, contribute to the Old School appeal. Weight of numbers – as well as weight of cash – is what's important. This will impress the Council.

Third, join the Old School Group. All groups need new ideas and fresh talent from time to time. The more people who are involved, the easier it is to get the word out and get this project up and running, to the benefit of all.

Don't care when it's too late.

Already contributed to the appeal? Well done and thank you, but we still need your help. If you have time to spare, a more precious commodity than money these days, come and join the committee. If not, tell Councillor Berrill that you want to see the Old School brought back into community use.

Not contributed? Dig out your donation leaflet and give what you can. If you have lost your leaflet you can download a copy from our website – www.kcfc.co.uk or ask any director.

Concerns have been expressed about traffic speeding through the village. This is not a new situation but we are undoubtedly feeling the effect of the additional housing in Balfroon which has increased the amount of traffic, both private vehicles and large service lorries, passing through Killlearn and there is a perception that much of the traffic is travelling well in excess of the speed limit. The temporary illuminated speed control sign has proved totally ineffectual as it has failed to light up at all during its period of installation. The matter has been referred to Stirling Council and to the police, and a future meeting is planned at which representatives from both bodies can be present to hear local views.

KCC has been disappointed at some planning decisions made by Stirling Council which have been contrary to the advice offered by the Community Council. However, the application to

erect five houses on land between 69 and 71 Main Street, which was vigorously opposed by KCC, was withdrawn by the developer.

It is hoped that the bye-law banning the consumption of alcohol in public places is proving effective.

We welcome PC Fiona Park as acting community police officer in the continued absence of Peter Brown.

Area Community Planning Meetings

Area Community Planning is a process where a local authority and other organisations come together to plan, provide for and promote the well-being of their communities as a result of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Killlearn joins with other villages in the western area of Stirling Council to form a 'cluster'. In this area the initiative has got off to a slow start. Two preparatory meetings were held during the summer with the aim of identifying issues of common concern. A meeting held in Buchlyvie in early October failed to progress matters. Further moves by Stirling Council's Corporate Services are awaited.

Brenda Pell

The Playpark

The Playpark Group, under the umbrella of KCFC and in partnership with Stirling Council, continues to pursue funding for this project to upgrade the children's play area within the big park with some success. The total cost of the project is £75,014. Grants secured to date amount to £12,195.

Making applications to funding bodies is a lengthy process, both in the preparation of submissions and in the wait to hear the results. Our experience so far, indicates we are working on the right lines, but we are in fierce competition with many other projects, most of them in areas of severe social and economic deprivation. All too often funders tell us that the money has run out.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of several applications. If these are in our favour then we may hope to see work starting on the playpark within a year.

The group would welcome any suggestions regarding potential funding routes.

Brenda Pell

DEATHS

Archie Shaw 1930 – 2005



Archie lived in Killlearn for nearly 46 years, moving from his family home in Balfroon on his marriage to Betty, who came from Glasgow. They met at a local badminton club and married in Killlearn Kirk,

October 1959. National Service in the RAF took him to England for two years, but he soon returned to his native Scotland, where he embarked on a career hairdressing in Glasgow. After several forays into other professions, he returned to his first love as a barber in Milngavie for over 30 years.

His cheerful presence will be sorely missed around the village. He leaves Betty, two children and four grandchildren.

PGW

Elizabeth Rae

In September the village bade farewell to Elizabeth Rae who lost her long battle with cancer. She will be remembered for her bright and lively personality and her thoughtfulness for others.

BP

Jean McPherson 1921 – 2005

Jean McPherson, who died suddenly, was well known to the dog walkers of Killlearn. An indomitable lady, proudly independent and with an air of old-world courtesy, she was regularly encountered walking her dog, Mar-mar, in the park or glen, accompanied by her friend, Carol. A radiologist by profession, as well as working at Killlearn Hospital, she had been head of the Neuro-radiology Department at the Southern General Hospital.

Her relatives have much appreciated the great support of the village following Jean's death and pay tribute to Carole and Jim Smith who have taken Mar-mar into their home.

BP

BIRTH

A daughter, Rebecca Louise, was born to Alison (nee Bogie) and Iain Rennie on 29 September. Alison, designed the masthead for the Courier. The baby took her parents by surprise by arriving over three months before the date expected and weighed in at only 1lb 13ozs. She is being cared for in the Queen Mother's Hospital and is making good progress. The Courier sends the family congratulations and every good wish that little Rebecca Louise continues to thrive.

Anyone wishing to place a birth, marriage or death announcement should send it to the editorial team – contact address and deadline on page 1.

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Community Newspaper of the Year Awards 2005

Several members of *The Killearn Courier* were present at the Albert Hall in Stirling on the evening of 16 September when the Stirling Newspaper Forum held their Community Newspaper of the Year Awards. This was a congenial gathering of representatives of Stirling Council and the editors and 'journalists' involved in producing community newspapers throughout the entire Council area.

Awards were made in various categories: Funniest headline; Best article; Best use of photography; Volunteer learner; Best snippet; Community involvement; Newcomer of the year and, finally, Community Newspaper of the Year.

The *Courier* submitted entries for all the categories for which we were eligible. We were pleased to find most of our submissions amongst the nominations in several classes and were delighted to gain

the **Highly Recommended Award in the Newcomer of the Year** section, coming second to the *Buchanan Voice*.



The picture shows our editor, Ian Dickie receiving the award from

Christopher Stewart of Stirling Reprographics.

The quality of the entries was very high. Newspapers featuring strongly amongst the winners were the *Gargunnoch News*; *Ben Ledi View* (Callander) and the *Buchhyive Bulletin*.

Stirling Community Newspaper Forum organises events, publications and training to support and promote community-based not-for-profit community newspapers in the district of Stirling Council.

It was interesting and instructive to thumb through the papers produced by other communities. Next year, with more experience behind us, we shall be determined to be up with the best them, in competition for the awards of 2006.

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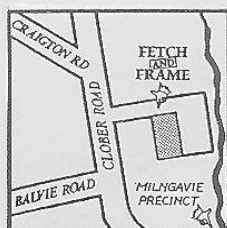
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ANOTHER CHRISTMAS DOGGY MEMORY

Ever get that bloated feeling after a huge Christmas lunch? Lovely isn't it.

As a 3-year old Labrador, the temptation of the turkey remains resting on the worktop only 2 feet from my nose, was just too much to resist - what Labrador could! The boss lady didn't look too pleased, but the rest of the family actually looked quite relieved at the prospect of not having to face turkey leftovers for the next few days. The icing on the cake was when Granny left the chocolate box open (and unattended!) Yummy! It was a lovely



Christmas and there had to be some compensations for being made to pose with silly antlers on my head - how uncool is that! (My mum reads the Courier - whatever is she going to think)

Warning from J&M Jackson, Veterinary surgeons.

Not all dogs have Fada's 'waste disposal' digestive system and eating turkey carcasses and chocolates are potentially dangerous. If it happens, monitor your dog

closely and at the first sign of sickness seek professional help.

Woof, woof and a Happy Christmas from Fada!

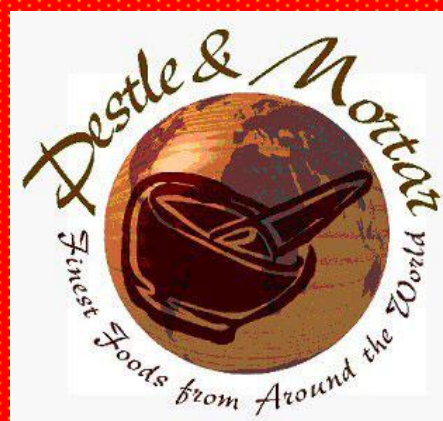
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Local Artists in the News

This area is full of talented individuals in a variety of media – painters, potters, lace-makers, textile artists and embroiderers, to name but a few.

Local artist, Connie Simmers, has followed her Scottish Arts Club Award earlier this year with a recent successful London exhibition. Connie exhibited over 50 original paintings at The Gallery in Cork Street, London, in a show entitled 'Scottish Artist at Home and Abroad'. She was inspired by her experiences and travels, which included a trip to West Africa.

Her paintings show an intuitive sense of vibrant colour and she is constantly striving to describe her subject with a refreshingly different approach. This is perfectly illustrated by one of the acrylics from the exhibition, entitled *The Soloist* reproduced on the right.

Still on local artistic talent, June Todd opens her Christmas exhibition at the Drymen Pottery. She shares the show with potter Shirley Bracewell. The combined exhibition could solve some of your sticky Christmas present dilemmas. June is not only a regular exhibitor at the Pottery with her colourful abstracts and west coast scenes, but she also contributes enthusiastically to many charity art shows.



Marion Drummond's *Time for Tea* (left) was selected as the raffle prize for the Macmillan Cancer Relief charity exhibition, which ended on 11 November at the Scotland Street School in Glasgow. It is the largest show of its kind in Scotland and half the money raised by the sale of all the art work exhibited goes to the charity. Marion, whose favourite subjects are still lifes and life painting, especially figure work, is delighted. She has exhibited widely in Edinburgh and London. But for her, the personal journey is the point, not the prizes.

It is no longer obligatory for talented folk to suffer in damp, cold garrets for their art. These days they are often to be found sharing knowledge, honing techniques and supporting each other's work.

One such group has found a home at Drumore Farm. When Ann Johnson of the Green Gallery retired, many the local amateurs and professional painters connected with the Aberfoyle institution found themselves at a loose end. Close friendships had been formed and, for some, weekly lessons were their only chance to paint. Jean Clark volunteered the use of a barn, put in heating and a kettle, and the Byre Group was born, a group of 30, 14 – 15 of whom meet regularly. Although occasionally demonstrators are invited to take a class, typically members take turns setting up a still life for the weekly session. *Time for Tea* is the result of just such a meeting. Who knows, the Byre Group might one day be as famous as the Glasgow Boys.

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Profile: Nicola Harrington organist



Nicola Harrington from Boquhan was educated at Killearn Primary and Balfron High schools before completing her secondary education at the Music School at Douglas Academy. With both parents professional musicians it was not surprising that Nicola should show musical aptitude and her early studies were in piano with her mother and in violin with her father. But it was in her early teens that Nicola describes herself as being awe-inspired

by the choir and organ accompaniment at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow and asked organist Frikki Walker for lessons. From Glasgow she transferred to St. Mary's, Edinburgh for lessons with Timothy Byram-Wigfield and was soon a prize winner at the Edinburgh Competitive Music Festival and the summer school for organists at Oundle.

On leaving school she went to Napier University to read music and gained the Herrick Bunney Memorial Organ Scholarship at St. Giles Cathedral which she held for three years. This gave her the opportunity to play on the Rieger organ, which she says is a quite extraordinary instrument, and to give a number of recitals.

After graduating BMus. Hons., Nicola went to Birmingham Conservatoire to study for a post graduate certificate in performance. She also held a choral scholarship at St. Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, and did a great deal of choral singing.

Her most recent success is a double organ scholarship at St. Mary's Parish church and Trent College in Nottingham. Here she plays for chapel services and gives tuition in aural and music theory, plays piano accompaniment for students and assists in classes and the administration of the music department. At the large parish church she plays organ for three services in alternate weeks and acts as accompanist for concerts. It is a demanding timetable, Nicola admits, but says she is learning a lot. She has organ lessons with Daniel Moulton and works with him on educational projects run by Birmingham Symphony Hall and finds this aspect of her work particularly satisfying.

When she is off duty Nicola loves all sorts of music, including new compositions, folk music and "anything," she says, "that's a bit different". She is fascinated by the psychology of music and its role in education. And when she isn't involved in music, reading and sailing are her chief interests.

Nicola returns to her roots in February when she will give a recital in Killearn Kirk as a fund-raiser for the Old School – a building where she has happy memories of her days in nursery!

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Mulled Wine

This is a delicious syrup base for mulled wine. It keeps in the refrigerator for several weeks, and the recipe can be doubled or tripled easily. This amount will mull 2 bottles of red wine.

Ingredients:

- 6 large oranges
- 8 oz granulated sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 dessertspoon whole cloves
- 3 pints of water

Method:

Roughly cut up the oranges and place them in a pan with all the other ingredients. Bring to the boil, then turn down the heat and simmer without a lid for 30 minutes. Strain the syrup through a fine sieve and store in a bottle or jar in the fridge.

To make mulled wine, simply heat the syrup gently in a pan large enough to hold the quantity of wine you want to mull. Bring the syrup almost to the boil and add the wine. Heat this mixture until warm, but do not boil. Serve in warmed glasses. Makes approximately 20 servings.

**Put the date in your diary; come and listen to
the music making of this talented musician.
Organ Recital by Nicola Harrington,
Killearn Kirk, Friday, 24 February 2006.**

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

There are lots of things about the festive season that don't change, that stay the same over the decades, like shopping and carols and excessive amounts of rich food. In this respect, Killearn is much the same as everywhere else. But it is interesting to think back a little bit, to compare the then and now, and spot the differences.

It is probably not true that winters were always better in the past, with more frost and snow, but there were spells of festive weather that linger in the mind. Like the time in the seventies when the village got snowed up for three days over New Year, and no one could get to work. Teenagers and grown men were seen skiing down New Endrick Road, in the sure and certain knowledge that no car could get up it. And there was something heart-warming about seeing complete families out sledging together down the hill at the side of Gartness Road, including the minister on a black bin liner. Dear knows what such wildness did to the winter barley. There seems to be a plantation of saplings there now, so that is one pleasure no longer available to the sledging public, though there are lots of other fields where families will doubtless disport themselves this winter at the first sign of the white stuff.

No doubt the changes to the Old Church Hall are long overdue, but in its glory days, the hall had an old-fashioned appeal about it that showed up especially at Christmas. The Guild carol evening was charm incorporated, with the church choir leading the singing in the candlelight, and selected villagers giving Christmas readings to a spellbound adult audience. The decorations glowed against the old stone walls, and the sound of ancient music resonated round the

rafters. The new church hall is still building its traditions, and has a lot to commend it. The Guild sale is just as lovely there as it always was.

There are also some great advances in the village Christmas. Take the lights. What used to be the odd twinkle of an Advent arch in the window has become a riot of colour in the garden. Cheerfulness abounds among the splendid displays on roof and lawn. And then there are the new traditions getting established. Anyone even loosely attached to the Curling Club will know of the New Year walk round the environs of the village, with regular stops for refreshment.

Then there are the things that change and yet don't change, like the Nativity Play. The great performances in the church in past decades, where it seemed as if every child in the village was involved, shine in the collective memory. But the nativity is still very much with us, in the school. Children still squirm under shifting tea-towels, and the magic is still there for everyone involved in it. The Strathendrick Singers' Christmas concert is another feature of the season, an event where the singing is good and the mulled wine is better, due to the mullers realising that they should invest in a better class of wine. The reader will be pleased to note that this is not reflected in the cost of the ticket, a bargain at twice the price.

So while traditions come and go, and changes happen, there is one thing we have no way of controlling. The great day may well dawn with blue skies, or a howling gale, or a fog. Let's just hope we get as pretty a white Christmas as the one we got last year.

Joyce Begg



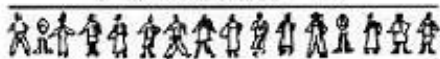
ANOTHER CHRISTMAS MEMORY

Father Christmas *always* managed to arrive during our sleeping hours. The excitement of the stocking was quite as great then as it is today although I suspect the sort of presents we received might seem dull to today's children. Boxes of handkerchiefs and neat packs of writing paper and envelopes from aunts and uncles were accepted with resignation, but board games, jigsaws and books were welcomed with shrieks of pleasure. The 'Annual' was a much hoped-for and prized gift, containing a collection of puzzles, craft ideas, short stories and chatty information; sometimes there was even a page or two in colour! In one of these I remember a poem by Enid Blyton in which she bemoaned the sad situation of the 1940's children. It was a little like that poem *November* and listed all the things we children didn't have. No oranges, no bananas, no ice-cream, no shiny paper, no fancy toys. Even now I can remember my indignation at the words. I didn't want her sympathy! How could this author, who supplied her Famous Five with such incredible adventures, really believe that my happiness could be blighted by the absence of items that I had never experienced? Christmas was the decorating of the little tree, its fragrance filling the room; carol singers at the door; the traditional church service; the wrapping and hiding of presents; family reunions and special meals. It was as exciting as it had ever been; and for the older generation there must have been an added relief that the war was over.

Brenda Pell 1947



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FLOWER SHOW 2005

The end of August brought the annual flurry of activity amongst the gardeners of Killearn and Balfron. Garden produce, which had been nurtured for months, found itself tweaked and polished and sitting on the show bench ready for all to admire. The cakes and artwork also arrived



ready to be scrutinized by discerning show goers.

The 139th Show was opened this year by Hugh McArthur who also presented all the cups and prizes. Hugh's amusing and informative introduction drew on his long association with the village and its show.

Entries were up again this year in most sections, but the crafty people hadn't been so busy with their

needles this year and disappointingly entries were almost halved from last year.

We hope that you enjoyed the Show, whether it was to enter or simply enjoy looking at the entries. If you could spare an hour or two to help us next year with setting up, taking down or serving teas we would be very grateful. Please call *Glenda* (550142) for any further information about the Show or the Society.

Glenda Asquith



Winning Flower Arrangement – "Symphony" by Rosemary Taylor



The winners of trophies were as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>Best exhibit in roses</i> | C Davies |
| <i>Most points, gladioli, chrysants, dahlias</i> | J Phillips |
| <i>Most points in cut flowers</i> | G Farquharson |
| <i>Most points in flower arranging</i> | S Bell |
| <i>Best exhibit in flower arranging</i> | J Connor |
| <i>Best children's flower arrangement</i> | A Bouffler |
| <i>Best in pot plants</i> | G Farquharson |
| <i>Best in vegetables and fruit</i> | D Cockburn |
| <i>Most points in baking</i> | J Young |
| <i>Most points in youth baking</i> | F Calder |
| <i>Best exhibit in preserves</i> | F MacDonald |
| <i>Best exhibit in wine</i> | I Wright |
| <i>Most points in craftwork</i> | A Garey |
| <i>Best exhibit in craftwork</i> | M Wright |
| <i>Most amusing craft entry</i> | C Shaw |
| <i>Most points in craftwork – youth</i> | A Ryan and E Young |
| <i>Best miniature gardens</i> | E Bell and C Young |
| <i>Most amusing craft entry – youth</i> | A North |
| <i>Best in photography</i> | N MacNab |
| <i>Best exhibit in art</i> | I Sinclair |
| <i>Most points in art</i> | J Taylor |
| <i>Largest sunflowers</i> | 1. S MacDonald |
| | 2. Corin Metcalfe |
| | 3. Alan MacDonald |

COLOURFUL KILLEARN



Three cheers for *Colourful Killearn*, the small stalwart band of volunteers who beautify the public spaces of our village each year. They are largely unheralded and unsung yet they do a sterling job and it is my belief that if they weren't there we would certainly miss their efforts. Apart from the War Memorial, which is tended by Stirling Council, they are responsible for almost all the tubs and beds, including those opposite the co-op and at the top of Beech Drive – their choosing, planting, care and funding. This entails attention throughout the year. The work is undertaken by about a dozen, mostly older, volunteers, who incidentally would very much welcome new helpers, as many hands make light work.

If anyone is willing to join the group, please contact Robin Veitch (550372).

Thank you *Colourful Killearn* and we will try not to take you for granted. JW

Play is not suspended

Tennis has been played in Killearn since 1921. The club has a healthy membership and none of the members are contemplating an end to the sport in the village, despite the current uncertainty over the future of the grounds. The club has been faced with difficulties before and these have always been overcome. Tennis in Killearn will be played for some time yet.

It's a real village club in the old style: no gym, no sauna and no pool to dip into after a game – just a club where the only interest is playing tennis. Three all-weather floodlit courts, a mini practice court and a modest clubhouse offer the best facilities of any of the villages in the local area.

The clubhouse has changing facilities and, of course, offers shelter for during those rain breaks.

Apart from the facilities the club's other main positive feature is the welcoming approach from all club members. Everybody of all standards can fit in. During the playing season the club hosts an American



Tournament every month. These take the form of a friendly doubles tournament where players of all standards compete. Winning isn't the most important thing but somehow the draw always stops the stronger players coming out on top anyway. It's a real icebreaker and the best way for any new members to introduce themselves.

With the emergence of Andrew Murray as one of the world's top players, Scottish tennis is bracing itself for a huge surge in interest, and Killearn Tennis Club will hope to be part of it. It's not so long since Andrew and his brother Jamie played in the same league set up as Killearn's current teams. In fact, some of the membership can claim to have taken the scalps of the Murray brothers.

Why play tennis? For some it's more of a social get together and for others it represents an enjoyable way to keep fit. It beats running on a treadmill. However the club also offers opportunities to those interested in the more competitive side of the sport with teams for men, ladies and juniors. The teams compete in the Central and District League. Opposition includes teams from Dunblane, Stirling, Linlithgow, Dollar, Bridge of Allan and Falkirk amongst others, so the club does very well to compete given the size of the village. Last season the men's 1st team retained their position in the 2nd division. Recently the ladies teams have fared better, with the 1st team holding their own in the First Division for several seasons and the Ladies 2nd team only just missing out on a promotion spot.

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The club also enters mixed teams into an autumn league which is played outdoors, and a winter league which is played indoors at Stirling University. Coaching is also offered at the club for all ages and standards. Group sessions are organised for juniors and seniors, and individual coaching is also available.

So don't be put off by reports on the disputes over the occupation of the grounds. The club has no intention of winding up activities and is confident tennis will continue in Killearn for many years to come. Membership forms and coaching details can be provided by Jackie Hawkins (550576). New members always welcome. *John Forshaw*



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Curling Club News

Steve Holden, Mike Jackson, Ian Moreland and John Bowie, all members of Strathendrick Curling Club, have just

returned from a walking holiday in the Dolomites. While there they visited Cortina, which has an ice rink housed in what was once an old bus garage. There, they met the mother of a girl, who when playing for Italy in Glasgow at the 1991 World Junior Curling Championship, had enjoyed the hospitality of one of Strathendrick's members. She invited them to make use of the

Cortina rink and enjoy a game of curling. Not only that, she then invited them to return in June 2006 for their summer bonspiel. Small world!

Closer to home Maurice Rennie and Gill Smith were both in the winning team of the Pot Luck opening bonspiel at Forest Hills on Saturday, 1 October.

On the 6 November, Fiona Glass, together with twenty three other ladies from Scotland, leaves on a three week curling tour to Canada. There they will play against teams from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Jim Meikle



To Ski Or Not To Ski?

The weather and snow conditions at Scotland's resorts have never compared favourably with the Continent. A spate of mild winters has even threatened to bankrupt the industry while periods of heavy snowfalls can be accompanied by high winds and poor visibility. Every regular Scottish skier will have their own horror stories – the rocks, the slush, the ice, the wind – but will also have stories of heavenly skiing under blue skies, with barely a soul on the slopes.

One advantage of living in Killearn is that some of the slopes are within easy reach and decisions do not have to be made until the night before or even until the day of the trip. It is easy to check conditions before you head for the hills. The excellent website, ski-scotland.com, provides up-to-date details during the season and also a 'snow alert register' service which issues an e-mail when conditions are good. Some of the resorts also provide a register for notification to your mobile phone.

The nearest resort is Glencoe which can be reached in 90 minutes. It is a small, friendly, no-frills area with varied terrain, and has a loyal following since it first attracted organised skiing on the slopes of Meall a Bhuiridh over 40 years ago. The peak of Buchaille Etive Mor thrusts high above the entrances to Glen Etive and Glen Coe. The view of it from the ski centre's car park or the restaurant window is superb and the prospect from the top of the chairlift, across Rannoch Moor to Ben Nevis, is unsurpassed. Glencoe also boasts the steepest marked run in Scotland, the Fly Paper. Well worth an afternoon or day trip. Also in the West there is Nevis Range, the newest of the resorts (complete with gondola) and great views.

Varying snow conditions and weather forecasts can sometimes mean that the East of the country can offer more winter sports

than the West. Glenshee flanks the highest public road in the country, running through the Cairnwell pass and formerly one of the main historic drove roads. Skiing began here in the late '30s and Glenshee now boasts an impressive 20 lifts with 38 runs offering an amazing diversity of terrain for all standards of skiers and snowboarders. The top of the Cairnwell chairlift offers a fine panorama of the Cairngorms. One big advantage here is that the main facilities – including ample nursery slopes – are beside the car park. Amazingly, a higher population density of ptarmigan has been found on the ski area than recorded anywhere else in the world, and red grouse and mountain hares are abundant.

Pre-season lessons are available on the dry slopes at Bearsden, Bellahouston Park and Hillend in Edinburgh.

Sharpen your edges and wax your soles and pray for a good season !

Dennis Pattenden



Balfron High School's Charities Committee



Amy McLean, Seonad Young, and Anna Fletcher encouraging you to "FILL ME UP"

Having been a pupil at *Balfron High* for five years, and with the support of my elders I have learnt to be conscientious, reliable and determined. Therefore I thought it was about time I put these key skills into practice and gave something back to the school. That is why I chose to become involved in *Balfron High School's Charities Committee*.

Consisting of about fifteen Fifth and Sixth year pupils, the pupil-run committee meets every Tuesday to discuss and organise new and exciting events, in which we can incorporate the entire school in raising money for local and national charities. As joint-chairperson of the committee it is my role to organise the meetings/events and make sure we are constantly moving forward with our ideas.

We have already collectively raised £1,600 for *Breast Cancer Care* and *Jeans for Genes*, and are actively raising money for Alzheimer's Scotland by running a home-baking stall at break times and selling specially designed 'Hope For The Future' Alzheimer's bands. We organised a talent show cleverly named 'The BHS-factor' and tested the teams' art skills by making mini foam Pudsy Bear badges for 'Children In Need' day on 18 November.

As a team we have worked closely to build a 'Copper Collecting' money tube – all contributions go towards *The Association of Children with Heart Disorders*. Furthermore, we are also collecting old mobile phone handsets and any type of empty print cartridges for the national charity *Action Aid*. The charity then gives the handsets to UK recyclers who refurbish them and donate them to countries where the landline infrastructure is poor. So if you have any old mobiles lying around the house or at work, you know where to send them! *Hayley Jones*

Killlearn Primary School News



On Monday, 3 October, three pupils from KPS, *Rebekah Anderson*, *Gwyneth Evans*, and *Keiran Everden* and ex-pupil *Kieran Boland* headed to London to represent Scotland at the prestigious Impetus Annual Showcase Celebration. Impetus enables establishments to contribute to the developing framework for values and citizenship within the UK. The school has been invited to share their work on 'Values and Citizenship'

which had been undertaken by Primary 6 & 7 pupils.

Headteacher *Mrs Scott* and Principal Teacher *Mrs Tempest*, who accompanied them, said, "It was a great honour to be asked to attend such an event. The pupils were excellent ambassadors for their school and their country. We are

extremely proud of all the pupils in our school who took part in this major piece of work."

Abbeyfield Visit

Primary 1 made their first public appearance on 30 September at *Abbeyfield* when they went to share their autumn songs with the residents. Their rendition of 'I'm a little teapot' was a big favourite!

Eco School (the next step)

We are now setting up 'Little Rotters' group. These children are responsible for collecting little compost bins sited around school and taking them to the large compost bin in the playground. *Mrs Jacky Young* assisted the children in showing them how to start filling their bins properly.

I Tempest



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BONFIRES

As a 68-month-old scholar I marvelled at our prodigious production. With the approach of Christmas, not only did we manufacture hundreds, if not thousands, of stars of Bethlehem, but we fabricated an Arabia of camels and vast herds of donkeys, each patiently bearing a precariously perched Madonna. Mules and asses in copious quantities were liberally distributed across the Judean hills whose slopes were accorded more than their quota of cypress trees and olive groves. And there was in our midst a modernist who daringly included a bus masquerading as a double-decker cart.



On the last day of school of 1949, my mother and I exited the playground via the arched gateway that still miraculously survives. I bade farewell to a classroom drenched in decoration, its ceiling under stress from the gravitational pull of stars, comets, angels with and without wings, with and without heraldic trumpets, angels with golden tresses, curled and permed, or angels with no tresses at all. I returned to a house where, imaginatively, I had convinced my mother that a replica of the school's ceiling was the fashionable thing.

I come now to the last event of that decade. Anticipation of what was, after all, an adult concept was wearing thin. I had had enough of the radio and newspapers constantly exhorting listeners and readers into a glut of celebration. But something was afoot. Even in my soporific holiday stupor my father's behaviour was alarmingly friendly. Later in life I learned to read the signs better.

In the dying minutes of 1949, in a living room whose attractive ambience was underlined with a roaring coal fire and the lace-covered circular table groaned under the weight of celebration goodies, my father swept in and swept us all out into the back garden. "Behold", he said, as he switched a row of light bulbs on, festooned along a square of washing lines, illuminating the ground carpeted

with milk and lemonade bottles each bearing a firework rocket. "Behold", he laughed, revealing a stuffed bonfire Guy, dressed in his wartime uniform, and thoughtfully provided against the chill night air with a scarf. The Guy stood wired to a stake with great out of a small but not insignificant bonfire. From the

living room via the opened doors of the kitchen came the faint chimes of Big Ben from the radio, and then the bells of our own Town Church. He fired the bonfire, and each and every one of the rockets, and prancing around and kissing and hugging us all, he yelled – all but inarticulate with laughter and holding

a sherry glass – "To the end – at last – of that stupid khaki decade." It was ten years to the second that he had slid across the snow-covered border from occupied Poland into still neutral Hungary.

We were joined by bemused neighbours, who climbed over the fence into the garden, enjoying an unexpected bonfire. My mother and I sat for what seemed a long time on the roof of the old air-raid shelter. I drank my first sherry at the age of 68 months. There was even dancing that night – or was it morning? I lost track of time. A new age had begun.

Jurek Pütter is the son of a pre-war Polish Diplomatic Courier. A true story taken from *A Scottish Childhood, II* (HarperCollins, 1998)



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Sticky Christmas Wreaths

These wreaths are a variation of Rice Krispie Treats, and are as yummy to eat as they are fun for kids to make. They look like miniature holly wreaths on your tea plate.

Ingredients:

10 oz white marshmallows
 2 oz butter or margarine
 few drops of green food colouring
 ¼ tsp vanilla (optional)
 cornflakes (about 5 cups)
 glace cherries, washed, dried and chopped
 extra butter for hands
 greaseproof paper

Method:

In a thick bottomed pan, gently melt the butter and the marshmallows, stirring, until the marshmallows have melted. Take off the heat, and add the green food colouring and vanilla, if using. Stir in the cornflakes – as much as the mixture will hold and still be covered by marshmallow. Let it cool slightly until it is still very warm, but not hot.

Now, work fast (this is where the kids come in). Butter your hands, and take a generous tablespoonful of the mixture, forming it into a wreath shape. Add the chopped cherries to look like holly berries. Best results are to be had working with the very warm mixture. Let them cool on greaseproof paper. Store in an airtight tin, separating the layers with greaseproof. Quantity depends on how big or thick your wreaths are; small wreaths are crunchier; large ones chewier.

THE ARK



As Team Leader of a thriving Sunday Club, I thought you might like to hear a bit about us! We're a lively team of children, teenagers and adults who enjoy an action-packed hour on a Sunday morning in the Church Hall.

Bible drama, games, cool crafts are just part of our activities. Do you need a designer cardboard three-tiered wedding cake? Would you like a desert tent or perhaps some tubs planted up? No problem to us! Father's Day gingerbread men or some jammy landing biscuits – just another of our talents!

We love a challenge and have great fun raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves. We recently held a Harvest Funky Fête with stalls of mouth-watering home baking, scoobies, pot luck, tuck shop, face painting, games hall for adults and kinds, and an auction. The auction was a great success with David Robertson (a well-known face on our TVs), Isobel Beveridge and Eric Graham adding much sparkle and fun. Yes, all 50 items donated disappeared one by one. Result? A super afternoon and £783.43 raised for Tearfund's project with orphaned children at the Tien Shan Centre in Kyrgyzstan. This Centre provides food, clothes, a chance to go to a mainstream school and learning skills on the Tien Shan Farm. A big thank you goes to everyone who supported our event, to Cairi, Emma, Rebekah, all the children in The Ark, the team and parents who helped make it all happen.

Why don't you jump aboard sometime meet Benjamin, Rattie, Miriam and Paul – who are they? – well come along and find out! Lots of exciting activities in the weeks ahead and it's not too late to take part in our musical nativity, "It's a Party" on 18 December.

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Wine Bar Children's Refreshments

DOOR OR WALL DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS



With just a few weeks to go before Christmas, it is the ideal time to gather some greenery (such as cupressus), holly (variegated looks attractive) and ivy. If you have them stored away, look out some artificial flowers – poinsettias and Christmas roses, coloured baubles, fir cones and red ribbon, ready to make your Christmas decoration.

You will also need:
 a floral art 'plastic shovel', a pin holder or frog (see picture below), some florist's foam (oasis), and florist anchor tape. These are all obtainable from a florist or garden centre.

1. Cut the florist's foam to fit the shovel. Soak in water until all the air bubbles have gone. Wrap in one layer of cling film, to help retain the water for longer. Secure pin holder to shovel and place oasis firmly on top. Tape the whole package together with one or two strips of tape.
2. After the greenery has been soaked in cold water for a while, cut the stems at an angle with a sharp knife and remove lower leaves, cut into suitable lengths: longer lengths for top and bottom of the display, medium on the sides and shorter for the middle. Start at the top and bottom pushing the longer stalks into the foam, then continue at the sides giving a rough rectangular shape. The shorter pieces will be needed for the middle, and to hide the foam.
3. Now the holly can be added, followed by the ivy, and finally the artificial flowers, with three quite large flowers being the main focal attraction.
4. Fir cones and/or baubles can be wired together and added. Finally add a good length of red ribbon top or bottom. The arrangement can be sprayed with artificial snow or silver if you wish.
5. The greenery should keep fresh for three weeks or so. Spray and keep in a cool place until ready to hang. Hang in a sheltered position if possible, protected from the elements, or in a hallway.



Rosemary Taylor

CHRISTMAS POST

The Guides and BBs are joining forces this year to deal with the thousands of cards (4,500 last year) delivered around the village – all for a donation. We were able to send £625 to the Children's Hospice last year (about 14p a card).

Boxes will be placed in the Chemist and Butchers as from Monday, 5 December, with the last pick up from those boxes on Saturday, 17 December, at 4.30 pm. On two Sundays – 11 and 18 December – there will also be a box in the Kirk. By each box will be a donation box.

Deliveries will be made on the same Sundays 11 and 18 December only.

Please remember to put the *full* name and address on the envelope. So far we have been able to deliver all cards posted, but only by pooling all our investigative skills.

Please support CHAS and the local Youth Organisations. *Queries? – Contact Sue Beck (550485).*



Christmas CDs

Materials required for each snowman:

- ◆ 2 CDs
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ Piece of ribbon 22cm long
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Coloured or shiny card in 2 different colours
- ◆ Black card
- ◆ 2 joggle eyes



1. Glue 2 CDs together (shiny sides outwards) with a loop of ribbon stuck between them, so that it can be hung on the tree.
2. Make the snowman's hat by cutting an 8cm square from the card. Cut a rectangle 15cm by 3cm from the same colour. Make a slit in the rectangle and put square in.



3. Glue square to the rectangle. Make hat band from contrasting card and glue it on. Put hat on snowman by slipping the top of the CD through the slit. Glue in place.
3. Cut 5 circles of black card and glue onto the CD in the shape of a mouth. Stick on a pair of joggle eyes.
4. Glue pom-pom over the hole in the CD. Add any finishing touches such as glitter or holly in the hat.
5. Hang up using ribbon loop.

Variation

Snowflake – Follow up to stage 1 above.

Make two paper snowflakes out of white or silver paper. Stick on to the CD. Add glitter to make it sparkle.

After a Rummage in the Loft

Don't give me clutter for Christmas
 Except perhaps a knife.
 I'm clearing out the loft
 And I'm cutting down my life.
 The drawers and cupboards are bulging
 With things of every kind,
 And yet when I go looking
 These things I cannot find.
 So don't give me clutter for Christmas
 Unless perhaps a knife.
 'Cos I'm clearing out the loft
 And clearing out my life.

JW

WASTE NOT

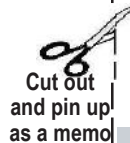
Christmas has become a time of conspicuous consumption, and with this consumption comes the inevitable waste. How to deal with this mountain of paper, bottles, cans, plastic, discarded items, and waste green matter that rots in landfill giving off a greenhouse gas is one of the most serious problems we face. The only practical answer is to reduce the waste in the first place, and recycling any that cannot be reduced.

Killearn is very good at recycling, nevertheless Christmas produces extra problems for the Council; the enormous increase in volume, coupled with disrupted schedules because of the holiday. You can help in many ways. If your blue or brown bin is full to overflowing, resist the temptation to put the excess in the grey bin. Take the bottles and paper to the recycling centre by the Old School. If you have a garden, how about getting a composter to take the excess green waste.

The best way is to cut down on waste. Try not to over wrap your presents, and go back to tying them with ribbon so the paper can be reused. Carefully store your decorations, rather than discarding them and buying new next year. You could even think about not giving "things" as presents – we in the West have so much. Instead, give innovative presents that aid the Third World, such as a cow to help a poor farmer or a village water supply. Many charities now have this option. Finally, after Christmas, recycle your cards for charity (Tesco had a box last year), and put your Christmas tree out beside the brown bin on collection day.

I wish you all an environmentally-friendly Christmas.

Peter Wilks



NOTICE BOARD

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 24 | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> , Illustrated talk by Dr Bill Inglis: "Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman: Scotland's forgotten prime minister". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm |
| November 26 | <i>The Guild</i> – Sale of Work, Church Hall, 2 pm |
| November 28 | <i>Monday Club</i> Bring & Buy Village Hall, 2 pm |
| December 2 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Only Human</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| December 3 | <i>PTA Christmas Fair</i> Village Hall, 10.30 am – 1 pm <i>Killearn Football Club</i> Christmas Dance. Tickets from D. Beaton, A. MacColl, C. Jewell or H. Russell. |
| December 4 | <i>Get Reel</i> Sharing/Christmas Party |
| December 6 | <i>Fintry Amateur Dramatics Society</i> pantomime: "Red Riding Hood", Fintry Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Runs until December 10, with a matinee on Saturday, 2.30 pm |
| December 8 | <i>Thursday Club</i> – Christmas Lunch <i>Carols at Christmastime</i> , Village Hall, 8 pm |
| December 11 | <i>Strathendrick Cycle Club</i> Run from Fenwick. Meet 11 am. <i>Killearn Kirk</i> , Carol Service, 10.30 am Contemporary Youth Service, Church Hall, 7 pm |
| December 15 | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Christmas Concert Buchlyvie Church. 8 pm |
| December 16 | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Christmas Concert Village Hall. 8 pm. |
| December 18 | <i>The Ark</i> musical nativity play: "It's a Party", Killearn Kirk, 10.30 am. |
| December 24 | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> , Watchnight Service, 11.30 pm |
| December 25 | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> , Christmas Day Family Service, 10.30 am |
| December 28 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Princess Bride</i> (Children's Film), Balfron Campus, 2 pm |
| January 6 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Castle</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| January 17 | <i>Get Reel</i> Enrolment for new classes, Balfron Campus, 6 – 8 pm |
| January 20 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Brief Encounter</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| January 24 | <i>Get Reel</i> – Classes begin, Balfron Campus |
| January 26 | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> Members' Night. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm |
| February 3 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Life is Beautiful</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| February 4 | <i>Killearn Primary</i> PTA Jumble Sale. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 pm |
| February 17 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>A Good Woman</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| February 23 | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> , Illustrated talk by Geoffrey Stell: "Redcoats at Home: the story of Inversnaid Garrison". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm |
| February 24 | Organ recital by <i>Nicola Harrington</i> , in aid of The Old School, Killearn Kirk, 7.30 pm |
| February 28 | <i>Killearn Primary School PTA</i> – Burns Coffee Morning. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 pm |
| March 3 | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Ladies in Lavender</i> , Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm |
| March 19 | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Spring Concert with music by Vivaldi, Handel & Mozart. Killearn Village Hall. 8 pm. |
| March 23 | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> , Illustrated talk by George Thompson: "St Kilda: the forgotten islands". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm |
| March 24 | <i>Killearn Primary School PTA</i> Family Music Night. Village Hall, 7–10 pm |
| March 26 | <i>Get Reel</i> – Concert, Killearn Village Hall |

Please send dates for the March 2006 issue to Pat Ryall (550713) by 3 February.

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TIMELY HELP

Recently an acquaintance asked me for assistance with filling in a bureaucratic form, which was accompanied by an even more convoluted letter to resolve her problem. It occurred to me that there must be other people who, from time to time, are faced with the same difficulty and have no family member to assist.

Having given the matter some thought I have decided to offer a small but confidential and personal service that could help individuals with a similar predicament, whether they be elderly, unable to read, or to comprehend some of the complex literature that bedevils our daily lives. Even letter writing to officialdom can be an almost impossible task for those unfamiliar with how to set about it.

It is my understanding that such a service is available in some places south of the border.

But in Scotland there is just the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Stirling, which is invaluable but with travelling costs is often inaccessible to many locals and they cannot always assist through a phone call.

Please contact **Catherine Organ** if you need help at **01360 550266 after 10 am**.

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THURSDAY CLUB

The club began a new session on September 1st and it was a happy reunion all round after the long summer break. We were pleased to welcome two new members – Miss Stuart and Mrs. Wood, making 10 members in all.

The Thursday Club is open to all villagers over 60 years of age, and it meets each week in the new Church Hall. You will be picked up from your home by car and taken back again by one of our team of willing volunteers.

We have Scrabble and whist going at the moment. The choice of games is up to the members.

Once a month, Jenny Wilks arranges a little entertainment or surprise. Arrangements have already been made to have a Christmas lunch at the Beechtree Inn on 8 December 2005.

If you would like to join, please ring **Betty Smith on 550486**, and she will make you very welcome.

RURAL LIFE

Is the 'Rural' still alive and well in Killearn? Yes, though it's changed and evolved since its founding more than 80 years ago in a wooden hut near the Post Office at Dumgoyne.

Originally the 'Rural' was a get-together for farmers' wives and country women – a welcome break to chat, listen to speakers, and to learn and pass on skills. The *WRI (Women's Rural Institute)* had its heyday in the war years and times have changed. We no longer have an active drama group, nor do we knit socks for soldiers! Instead, we enjoy a wide range of speakers talking on diverse subjects such as Aromatherapy, cosmetics, making hats, and sailing for the disabled. We still enter the Campsie show – a chance to display the artistic and crafty talents of our members.

The Dumgoyne WRI is very welcoming to all newcomers at our meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month. And, yes, we do have a very wide age span; surely an advantage. Our annual Burns Lunch and whist drive contribute to village life. So why not come along and give us a try. We'd love to see you.

Contact: Sara Hudson (550806)
or Irene Davison (550866)



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FESTIPHOBIA – OR ARE YOU *REALLY* LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS?



Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) on Banstead Heath

Nature notes for the festive season obviously revolve around reindeer and Lapland, but here is the real low down. Reindeer – apart from the herd in the Cairngorms introduced by the Laplander Mikel Utsi years ago – are native to the northernmost parts of Europe: Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland and adjacent islands.

But where did all those tales of flying behaviour come from? It is all to do with that favourite red and white toadstool of the fairy story. The Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscaria*, contains a hallucinogen called

muscimol – and it gained its English name from the fact that, at one time its flesh was mashed up with milk and used as a fly poison. (What kind of hallucinations does a fly get, I wonder?)

The Christmas connection goes like this: the toadstool grows all over the northern hemisphere in birch and pine woods, and even up

in the tundra where the reindeer roam. Not surprisingly reindeer like to eat the toadstools as a change from the tough lichen which is their main diet. Laplanders drink both milk and urine of their herd animals and the hallucinogen passes through... hence the ability to see flying reindeer and bearded gentlemen in red and white clothing. Makes you think again about all those fairy tales we tell our children and grandchildren, doesn't it?

Please don't try this at home!

Fay Pascoe

Bats about Killearn

To paraphrase a well known office slogan 'You don't have to be batty to live here, but it helps'. West Stirlingshire is a paradise for bats, especially our commonest species, the soprano pipistrelle.



soprano pipistrelle bat
© University of Bristol

Why? We have woodland, farmland, water *and* – lots of midges, the fluttermouse's favourite food. Although some folk claim not to like bats, many roost owners are happy with their wee lodgers and enjoy watching their aerobic flights around the village. Bats do not chew wood, build nests, or fly into people's hair. Admittedly, their tiny dry droppings can be a bit of a nuisance down your window pane if you have a roost in your attic, and no one really wants the lost youngsters flying around their bedrooms, – but think of the good they do, gobbling up 3000 midges a night! They are usually only with us for a few short months.

It is a common myth that if you have bats in your house, but really have a phobia about them, there is nothing you can do – you just have to live with them. This is *not true*, permission to exclude them – should you want to – *can* be granted by Scottish Natural Heritage. The Central Scotland Bat Group knows several roosts in the area but would love to know of any others. Please contact 550022, if you would like more information.

Fay Pascoe

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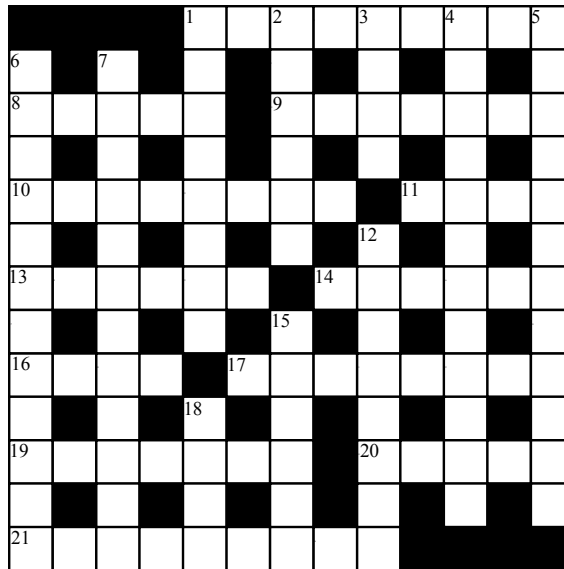
THE KING'S
GLASGOW

WIN A FAMILY OUTING

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 the King's Theatre, Glasgow**. The winner may choose a show of their choice, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing date – 10 January 2006



4, 5, 6 and 7 down have a common seasonal theme and are partially clued.

ACROSS

1. Give puss a pick-me-up when paralysed (9)
8. Custom within a bus agency (5)
9. Star POW released at this time (7)
10. Send out spirit by changing a point with love in exercise (8)
11. A cowardly man is cut down by a strap (4)
13. Messy time plan (6)
14. Around Marcus in the back (6)
16. Weak joke – yes in short! (4)
17. East European returns order to the Queen when moving (8)
19. Component part of tele mentality (7)
20. Sounds like good fortune – a Tuscan city (5)
21. Thus topped, tied and well-managed (9)

DOWN

1. This fist is shown by revolutionary following Cuba's lead (8)
2. She may be a key employee (6)
3. Job for a model by request (4)
4. Have a ball a week after 5 (3,4,5)
5. This May, cards are around too early! (9,3)
6. Listen to ER (5'1,6)
7. Waits (5,7)
12. Sang as the vehicle almost turned over (8)
15. Good man in need of a bed (6)
18. The last Greek character? (4)

Name

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of our last Cryptic Crossword Competition: Mrs Pauline Holden.

Solution to the last edition. Across 1. block; 4. obtuse; 9 trailer; 10 chart; 11 earn; 12 meander; 13 map; 14 ASBO; 16 aide; 18 ban; 20 censure; 21 acme; 24 elate; 25 saltpan; 26 treaty; 27 banns
Down 1 better; 2 on air; 3 kill; 5 Buchanan; 6 unaided; 7 entire; 8 tramp; 13 monument; 15 sondage; 17 accent; 18 beast; 19 tennis; 22 capon; 23 club

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



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

1. Good sledging place with name the same as a large black bird. _____ Hill
2. She sits on top of the Christmas tree _____
3. The month for Christmas _____
4. Name the baby born on Christmas Day _____
5. What has lights on outside the Kirk at Christmas? A Christmas _____
6. Two places to buy Xmas pies in Killearn (a) _____ (b) _____
7. What does the flower shop sell to hang on your door? _____
8. What season is this? _____
9. It glitters and can be hung on the Christmas tree _____
10. What weather do we want to go sledging? _____
11. What songs do we sing in church at Christmas? _____
12. Rearrange the letters for a seasonal time (a) APYHP (b) WNE (c) ERAY
13. What does the postman bring at Christmas? _____
14. What is the name of the reindeer with a shiny red nose? _____
15. What are exciting to unwrap at Christmas? _____

Find the answers to the 18 questions about Christmas in Killearn in the wordsearch and circle your answers in the grid. Enter your name and address, and place your completed word grid in the box in Spar.

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

Name Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last Wordsearch - Hannah McLaren

KILLEARN FC – A CLEAN SWEEP



Killearn Football Club's season was the most successful of the Club's history. The season did not start until the end of April, but training at Balforn High School had been running since the beginning of February. The players benefited greatly from this as well as the four pre-season friendly matches that had been organised.

The Club's AGM took place two weeks before the start of the league at which Alan MacColl and Chris Jewell were appointed co-managers, and Donald Beaton was re-elected as chairman. Donald's experience and knowledge of the Forth and Endrick League was key in helping the new managers concentrate on their jobs.

The start of the season saw Killearn race to joint top of the league after three games with three wins. The fourth game of the season saw Killearn's only defeat: at Gartocharn (2-0). A frustrating defeat, as Killearn dominated for most of the game. History in the making followed, as the Club won the first cup of the campaign with a 3-2 win at Drymen against Blanefield, ensuring the Margaret White Trophy was Killearn's. The Club went on to win the Forth and Endrick League by 10 points and, by scoring 111 goals, also won the Salmon Leap Trophy as the league's top goal scorers.

Three out of five trophies in the bag, it was two games to go, both against 'auld enemy' Blanefield at Drymen. As history would have it, Blanefield were the only team ever to have won all five major league trophies. It was fitting that Blanefield stood in Killearn's way. The

Telfer Cup was the first cup to be played for. Blanefield fought hard but Killearn's pace up front shone through, eventually winning 3-1. The Cameron Cup took place a fortnight later, another tough battle, but Killearn made history by winning 4-2.

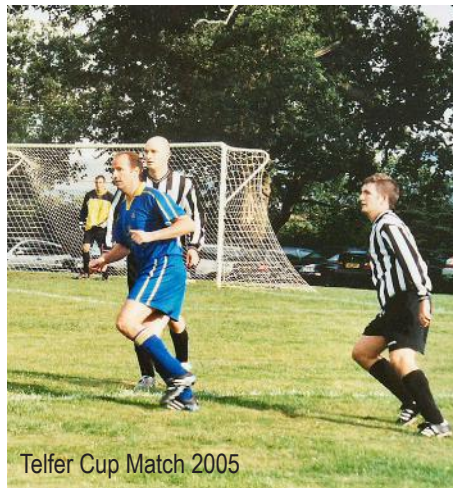
Hands full with the League Trophy and the Salmon Leap Trophy, Club Captain

James Beaton sent his deputy Gavin Imrie to collect the all-important Cameron Cup. That was not all of the silverware Killearn would get. James Beaton was awarded the Cameron Cup Man of the Match award. Ian Crawford collected the league's Player of the Year Award, well merited not only for the 47 goals he scored, but because of goal-scoring chances he created.

Winning five trophies was a dream come true for all involved. Killearn finished the season having played 29 matches: winning 26, drawing 2 and losing only 1. 148 goals were scored and only 32 conceded in all the competitions. Congratulations to all involved.

The Football Club's Christmas Dance will be held in Killearn Village Hall on 3 December. Tickets are available from Donald Beaton, Alan MacColl, Chris Jewell or Hugh Russell.

Chris Jewell



Telfer Cup Match 2005

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