



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 38

SUMMER 2017

£1



Letters to the Editor

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 Please include your full address (not for publication).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

Dear Editor

Anyone travelling between Killearn and Blanefield will have noticed that there has been a considerable amount of tree felling taking place. What a difference! No longer do we have to drive through a dark and dreary tunnel of overhanging trees. The road no longer seems gloomy, and it is now possible to see the open countryside. A few broadleaved trees as replacement would be very acceptable, but no more regimented conifers, please.

Tourists come to Scotland to see the countryside and along this stretch of road they can now do so. Can we now hope that some of the tall trees and hedges in the village of Killearn be removed or trimmed back with similar results?

Yours

A fan of the open countryside

Dear Sir

I recently took an evening walk to the park and was shocked to find around a dozen cars parked on the grass around and close to the large oak tree.

Our park is a valued amenity in our village and the age of some of the trees a source of pride and wonder. The large oak tree is recognised as being of historic value. During the construction of the Sports Pavilion, great care was taken to avoid any risk of damage to this tree – contractors' trucks were required to avoid driving or parking over the tree roots.

Quite apart from conservation issues, it is unthinkable that vehicles should enter an area of ground reserved for leisure activities where children are playing and adults are walking. The bollard, installed specifically to block vehicular access from The Square, has now been locked in the upright position and should only be lowered to allow Stirling Council vehicles access for grass cutting. No other vehicles should enter the park from any potential access point, such as Birch Road. For football spectators, there are a number of benches surrounding the pitch.

Our park earned 'Fields in Trust' status in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. It should remain a green, pleasant and safe place for the enjoyment of all.

Yours sincerely

Brenda Pell

Back Copies, Anyone?

All Killearn Archive has incomplete files of the *Courier*. We have numbers 3, 5–8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 24, covering 2005–12. Can anyone supply the missing issues?

There was an earlier newsletter called *Killearn Community Courier*, published by the Community Council. We only have number 14, December 2002. Does anyone have the other issues?

Please contact us at www.kcfc.co.uk/AKA.

Editorial

Well, here we are again with our summer edition – though given the mixed weather we've been having, you might be forgiven for taking issue with the use of the word 'summer'. Never mind, reading this *Courier* will soon cheer you up and take your mind off things.

Would you believe that I am writing this while staying in a chalet on the banks of the Thames at a place called Chertsey (baby-sitting grandchildren since you ask). As I look out the patio doors, I can just make out the river through the downpour. Not that I'm moaning mind you, but I have just been speaking on the telephone to someone in Killearn who tells me it is 26°C up there!

Not that it's all that bad. I can see a family of swans moving serenely down the river. They remind me a wee bit of our group at this point of production – very calm and serene up front, but paddling furiously underneath to get edition 38 out on time.

I get a preview of the proof before it goes off to the printer, and have to say that, once again, it looks great. All 48 pages of it!

We've got articles from all our usual contributors plus a lot more besides, so sit back and enjoy. We try to publish every article we receive but due to the constraints of space, we have to keep some on file sometimes, so apologies if this has happened to you.

Inside you will find articles from our usual contributors as well as new voices which hopefully you will find interesting and informative. We've got a new Cub, too. Jamie Cushing brings us up to four young budding journalists; they are all very active and have produced some really interesting articles.

Our advertisers are still with us, so please support them. Their support makes your *Courier* possible.

There's a buzz about this issue, so enjoy it and the rest of the summer.

Ian

Cover image of the River Endrick at the Pots of Gartness kindly provided by Jane Hunter.

Noticeboard

- 19 Aug **Killearn Country Market** Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
- 24 Aug **Strathendrick Rotary** meeting, Club Room, Killearn Village Hall, 6.30pm; thereafter second and fourth Monday of the month. Contact Ian Dickie (550639 or patogian@hotmail.com).
- 26 Aug **Killearn Horticultural Society** Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries to be staged Friday, 7.30pm–9pm, or Saturday, 7.30am–10am. For schedule and enquiries contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
- 28 Aug **Monday Music** autumn term starts. Kirk Hall. For children from six weeks to five years. Contact Clare Cushing (550166) to confirm times.
- 4 Sept **Strathendrick Singers** rehearsals resume, Balforn Church, 7.30pm. New members, especially tenors, welcome. Contact Colin Cameron (440622) or Judith Neil (550832).
www.strathendricksingers.org.uk
- 19 Sept **Embroiderer's Guild Strathendrick Branch** Enrolment and workshop. Kirk Halls, 10.30am–3.30pm. Afternoon talk at 2pm by Jean Mellin, 'The Dreaded "D" Word'. Visitors welcome – full-day fee: £4; £3 half-day fee covers either workshop or talk.
- 20 Sept **Killearn Community Council** meeting, Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 23 Sept **Killearn Country Market** Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
- 28 Sept **Drymen & District Local History Society** film night, showing historic films recently acquired by the Society. These include two Montrose family films of trips to Skye, Orkney and Shetland, a film taken at the funeral of R.B. Cunninghame Graham, and some footage of Killearn Hospital in 1948. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £7.
www.drymen-history.org.uk
- 1 Oct **Killearn Kirk** Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30pm.
- 3 Oct **Killearn Kirk Guild** light supper and Glasgow street songs – Karine M. Davison. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 5 Oct **Killearn Malawi Group** AGM, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 6 Oct **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *Florence Foster Jenkins*, Balforn High School, 7.30pm, £4 entry.
- 7 Oct **Killearn Kirk Guild** Harvest Coffee Morning, Kirk Hall, 10am–12noon.
- 17 Oct **Embroiderer's Guild Strathendrick Branch** Start of the 'Flower Project'. Kirk Halls, 10.30am–3.30pm. Visitors welcome – full-day fee: £4; half-day fee: £3. **Killearn Kirk Guild** project – All Friends Together, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 18 Oct **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Primary School, 8pm.
- 20 Oct **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *Hidden Figures*, Balforn High School, 7.30pm, £4 entry.
- 26 Oct **Drymen & District Local History Society** Illustrated talk by Peter Ireland on the diary of a private soldier c.1890–1910. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £7.
www.drymen-history.org.uk
- 4 Nov **KCFC Bonfire and Fireworks Display** The Glebe, 7.15pm.
- 7 Nov **Killearn Kirk Guild** Call the Midwife, Glasgow style – Bring and Buy. Visiting Guilds. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 11 Nov **Killearn Country Market** Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
- 12 Nov **Killearn Kirk** Remembrance Service, War Memorial, 10.45am, followed by a service in the church.
- 15 Nov **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 17 Nov **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *Room*, Balforn High School, 7.30pm, £4 entry.
- 21 Nov **Embroiderer's Guild Strathendrick Branch** Workshop, Kirk Halls, 10.30am–3.30pm. Afternoon talk at 2pm by Jonathan Brown 'Japanese Embroidery'. Visitors welcome – full-day fee: £4; £3 half-day fee covers either workshop or talk. **Killearn Kirk Guild** Bethany Trust. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 23 Nov **Drymen & District Local History Society** presentation by Murray Cook on Cambuskenneth, the masons' marks and excavation of the harbour. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. £2 admission for a single meeting; annual subscription £7. www.drymen-history.org.uk

If you have dates of events for the Winter 2017 issue of the Noticeboard (mid November to mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (550137; heather.mcarthur@virgin.net).

Refurbished Signs Offer A Big Village Welcome

Killearn Community Futures Company received a report that the 'Welcome to Killearn' signs at the three entrances to the village were in urgent need of refurbishment, and would KCFC finance this. The first question that needed to be answered was who owned the signs – KCFC had never formally taken them on its books. Investigation showed that they were still owned by the Killearn Community Council Millennium Committee, formed early in 1999 to plan the celebrations for the year. How many remember the Gala, Children's Street Party, the Singalong in the Village Hall, the Fun Run and so much more, culminating in a spectacular firework display as one century morphed into another?

The Committee left a lasting legacy in donations to many village improvements, including financing a number of seats, contributing to the multi-court and funding the Archive Group's display cabinets in the village hall. The most visible symbols are the three signs now showing the effects of 15 years exposure to the elements.

Millennium Committee Chairman Dez Burt, Secretary Fiona Glass and Treasurer Jim Fallas, together with other committee members still in the village, met for the first time since 2003 to discuss what could be done for the signs. Jim reported that all the funds had been dispersed as permitted by the committee's constitution and therefore there was no money to pay for the refurbishment. After



much discussion, Dez Burt offered to dismantle the signs and complete the renovation back at his house without charge. The mammoth task was completed by Dez with a lot of help from Fiona, and the signs were returned, repaired and looking great, ready for another 15 years welcoming people to the village.

The Millennium Committee has now dissolved itself and the signs have been formally passed to KCFC for their future care. This article is to express the thanks of everyone who values these signs to Dez and Fiona for their selfless act.

PW

Abbeyfield Killearn News



Abbeyfield Killearn is in good heart, having welcomed two new residents this year resulting in full occupancy at the house.

The Friends committee, now that we have more members, has been reorganised into smaller subgroups, each looking after particular types of activity. To make sure that this all comes together, a hub coordinator has been appointed who controls the diary. This new arrangement has been working very smoothly.

There have been plenty of activities for the residents in addition to the regular ones such as news reviews, exercise classes, church services, Rotary presentations and musical requests.

Abbeyfield House hosted a tea party in April for members of Contact the Elderly. A great spread was prepared by the housekeeper, and members, residents, volunteers and friends all enjoyed a good chat. West

Stirlingshire Contact the Elderly celebrated their 20th Anniversary by holding a tea party at the Black Bull, Gartmore. One of the Friends committee attended this enjoyable event where Margaret Sparkes, Chairperson, gave an account of the excellent work they do with the elderly.

In May, the residents had a trip to Loch Katrine with a sail on the SS *Sir Walter Scott* after lunch at the Brenachoile Café. The weather was perfect and the views from the boat absolutely stunning. The sail was very pleasant and the breeze kept everyone onboard cool in spite of the hot weather. At the end of the sail, everyone enjoyed an ice cream in the shade before returning home.

In June, there was a residents' outing to the David Marshall Lodge. After lunch they went to see the young osprey chicks – three eggs had just hatched, the last one just

24 hours earlier. An informative talk was given to the group by one of the rangers about the ospreys and other wildlife in the surrounding area. Residents and Friends greatly enjoyed their day, but couldn't be persuaded to sample the Go Ape Zip Wire!

The Friends committee has many exciting ideas for future events which are currently being planned and an interesting programme is ensured. As the Friends of Abbeyfield is not a money-raising organisation, we require funds to run these events and we were delighted to receive donations from the Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick and the Police Mutual Assurance Funding. We really appreciate these contributions which allow us to continue organising activities and outings for the residents of Abbeyfield Killearn.

MIKE MENZIES

The Friends Bid Farewell to Old Friends



Residents and the Friends of Killearn Abbeyfield recently met to bid a fond farewell to Mike Menzies and his wife, Sue, who are leaving the village to move to Broughty Ferry. Mike has headed the Friends of Killearn Abbeyfield Committee for several years, and his support and friendship will be much missed.

Under Mike's leadership, the Friends Committee at the Killearn house increased and the range of activities provided for the residents developed. Mike's warm and gentle personality endeared him to both residents and colleagues. The Friends Committee do much to bring the outside world into the House and to enable the residents to participate in the surrounding community.

A presentation to Mike was made on behalf of the Friends Committee by Pat Rodgers (*pictured left*), and the residents and the Friends wished him and Sue every happiness in their new home.

Truesdale – Cameron



David Cameron from Killearn married Christine Truesdale of Cumnock on 28 May 2017 at Boclair House Hotel. Family and friends from as far as the United

States and Canada enjoyed a beautiful sunny day and excellent entertainment. The couple live and work in Glasgow, although David still has strong links to Killearn.

Fibre Broadband Update

Premises in 'The Trees' estate, Crosshead Road, Graham Road and part of Main Street now have access to fibre-based broadband with speeds of about 30 Mbps, and up to 80 Mbps if the house is close to the exchange. A new fibre cabinet in Killearn went live in April with no prior information, only holes appearing beside the exchange. You can check your own situation by going to the Digital Scotland WhereandWhen website and entering your postcode or, for the most accurate result, your phone number.

We continue to wait for information to be released concerning the next phase of the upgrade programme, 'R100', that plans to deliver 30Mbps to all premises in Scotland. We are hoping the first information will become public around September.

Mobile masts continue to be upgraded to provide 3G and 4G services, but again when and where this will happen is not made public in advance. 'Mobile Broadband' can provide an immediate route to faster speeds for some premises, albeit at a cost. Check the Ofcom website for maps showing detail of mobile coverage areas and level of service. Satellite connections are another possibility and almost always available, though the most expensive option.

The Digital Scotland 'Better Broadband Scheme' provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps. See the KCC website for specific links.

KBG and iLomond provided Phase 1 of super-fast wireless internet service to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre for an International Jamboree, with generous support from Abbeyfield Killearn.

Current information, plus links, can be found in the monthly reports provided to the Community Council for the meeting and afterwards on the KCC website.

DOUG ASHWORTH
KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP

Ashworth Computing Services
01360 - 550074

- Personal Support and Training
- Internet & Anti-Virus solutions
- Windows, Mac and iPad
- Service improvement and IT consultancy for business

Email: info@ashworthcomputingservices.co.uk



The *Courier* group produces three issues a year – Spring, Summer and Winter, the latter being our ‘Christmas’ issue. We are also supported by a team of volunteers who deliver each issue to every household in the parish. We are grateful for the support we receive from the community and also from our advertisers, without whom it would be impossible to produce and distribute the *Courier* free of charge. Over the years, we have also been joined by secondary-school students – our *Courier* Cubs – from Siobhan Wilson, who really set a high standard in our first edition – to our current four Cubs, whose interesting articles you’ll find in this edition.

We aim to produce a community newspaper which is topical and keeps our readers up to date with what’s going on locally. For that, we thank our contacts in many local and village organisations – from the Community Council and KCFC to

Strathendrick Car Club, the Killearn Malawi Group and the Beer Festival organisers. Nor could we forget the snippets from the schools and sports teams’ reports. Then there are our individual feature writers who are happy to provide a ‘Thought for the Issue’, share a story from the archive or tell us about the finer points of the natural world, gardening, the intricacies of bridge and the weather.

Many of us have been with the *Courier* since it started, so it must be fun. We may put the *Courier* together, but you make it what it is. We are always open to new ideas, and there’s always room for more around the editorial table!

If you would like to get involved or want more information, please contact the editor Ian Dickie (550639; patogian@hotmail.com) or any member of the *Courier* group.

And, since you ask, we don’t wear green eyeshades anymore.

ED



I’m a 16-year-old pupil at Balforn High School with interests ranging from technology to politics. I enjoy music and gaming, and I am looking forward to writing regularly for the *Courier*.

JAMIE CUSHING



TRUFFLE

- ❖ **Bespoke catering** for Weddings, Dinner parties & everything in-between
- ❖ **Tailored cooking** demonstrations in the comfort of your own home with our ‘Dem & Dine’ experience
- ❖ **Private chef** service

07894 018130

www.truffleevents.com

Endrick Blooms



‘Fabulous flowers for every occasion’

** Bespoke Wedding Flowers*

** Vase and Bay Tree Hire*

We can help with all events in the fab Killearn Hall! Call the shop for inspiration.

01360 550404

Visit us on [Facebook](#) 

KPS Rotary Team in District Final Haven't They Done Well!



Killearn 2017 team with their mascot

For the fourth year running, Killearn Primary School Rotakids Club (aka Rotapeeps) have raised a fantastic sum for their chosen charities. Like their predecessors, the bulk of their funds went to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, but they also made a donation to UNICEF to help children in Syria. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation doubles any money raised, which means that over the four years the Rotapeeps have been in existence, more than £15,000 has been donated to the campaign to end to polio. Think how many young lives have been changed or saved because of their efforts.

All the Rotapeeps have now moved on to Balforn High School, and it is hoped that they will form the next stage of a Rotary Youth Club, InterAct, and continue to raise money for good causes. TID

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick hold an annual quiz for all the primary schools in their area. Eleven teams usually participate and the event is held in the theatre at Balforn High School, where the atmosphere is one of tension and great excitement.

This year, a team from Killearn Primary School won the competition and went forward to the final which was held in Glasgow and involved teams from as far apart as Oban and Stranraer and all primary schools in between. A total of 20 teams made it through to the District Finals, and Killearn's team came a very creditable fifth. Well done! TID



Some of the 2016-17 Rotapeeps presenting a cheque to the Rotary Club

Shout Out from Killearn Brownies

Can you help us? Our two Leaders, after many years, are not continuing with Brownies. We are, therefore, on the lookout for new volunteers to come forward so that we can keep on enjoying Brownies.



We meet once a week during term time, and have great fun playing games, doing crafts and working towards Brownie badges. It would be such a shame if we can't carry on with the fun, adventure and confidence-boosting activities that Girlguiding provides.

There is a thriving Rainbow unit in the village which caters for girls age 5-6 years, and having a local Brownie unit allows girls to carry on their Girlguiding journey until they are of an age to join the Killearn Guide unit.

For new Leaders, Girlguiding offers lots of training opportunities and there is the support and assistance of local experienced Leaders and Commissioners.

We are appealing for anyone interested in volunteering with Girlguiding to enable the Brownies to continue to come forward and either speak to any of the local Guiding Leaders or contact Fiona Hunter, Division Commissioner – Endrick Division (01786 870322; fionaihunter@btinternet.com). FIONA HUNTER



HARPER

GARDEN SERVICES

"Let the grass be greener on your side of the fence"

Patrick Harper

Mobile: 07891868143

harpergardenservices@gmail.com



Qualified joiner now specialising in outside timber work and much more

A Small Turning Circle?



I am a new member of SCCC and from Norway, and have been a Jaguar fan all my life. It started early in the 1960s, when an older friend of mine, the son of good friends of my parents, bought a 1953 Jaguar XK 120 in 1964. At that time, there were only three of these cars in Norway. It was beautiful, and I drove a lot around in Oslo with my friend. Unfortunately, there were not many Jaguars for sale in Norway at that time, and they were also quite expensive.

In 1970, I came to Scotland to study architecture. I started in Dundee, but finished and qualified from The Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow in 1976. I wanted to buy a Jaguar to take back to Norway when I returned. It was possible to import a car to Norway tax free if you had lived abroad for a minimum of five years and owned the car for a year before you moved back.

I looked for a Jaguar MkII, which I also fancied, but did not find any for sale in Scotland at that time. However, I did find a 1968 Jaguar 420 near Dundee. The car was a LHD, imported from the United States and the clutch was burned out, so I got the car for £350. When I studied in Glasgow, I lived in Drymen, so I bought all the parts I needed in Glasgow and got help from the garage in Drymen to change the clutch. I drove the car back to Norway in 1976 with my Scottish wife, whom I married in St Andrews in 1972.

I had to keep the car for two years before I was allowed to sell it, which I did in 1978. I had really wanted a Mk II, and I looked for several years before I found one for sale in a shop in Oslo called Roadster Square. They imported and sold Morgans as well as other used British cars, and in their workshop they restored and repaired cars. The 1963 Jaguar Mk II 3.8 was imported to Norway from Edinburgh by a Norwegian student in the 1980s and he sold it to the dealers who renovated and resprayed the car in the original colour (gunmetal grey). Unfortunately, before I managed to make up my mind due to the price at the time, the car was sold.

So I continued to search for a Mk II. One of the newspapers in Oslo had pages with cars for sale and a special column for classics, veteran and vintage cars. I looked at this every day and found a few MK IIs for sale, but when I went to look at them, they were not in a very good condition and some also had a lot of rust. But one day I found a Jaguar Mk II 3.8 for sale in Sandefjord, a town a good bit south of Oslo. This time I brought cash, and I got a friend of mine to drive me down in case I decided to buy the car.

The car was stored in a barn with other cars, and when I saw it, I suddenly discovered that it was the same car I had looked at in Roadster Square in Oslo. The only difference was that the owner had replaced the original steel wheels with chromed spoke wheels. I bought the car and drove it back to Oslo. Quite soon, the car will be returning to Scotland and will be part of the SCCC.

TRYGVE PETON ANDRESEN



breathing space

Animal behaviour and care

- o Dog Walking (solo or small group walks: 30 min, 1 and 2 hours)
- o Pet Sitting (including exotics, overnight, short- and longer-term)
- o Doggie Day Care (half and full day) and Pet Transport
- o Pet Dog Training (Reward-based, 1-on-1, small group)
- o Puppy Classes
- o Pet Behavioural Advice and Behaviour Modification by a Qualified Veterinarian and Companion Animal Behaviourist
- o Fully Insured, Competent in Canine First Aid
- o Flexible and Affordable

Rose Lederer
MRCVS, Member of BVBA and ESVC
BVSc., Dr. med. vet., PhD, MVM, MSc (Clinical Animal Behaviour)
Certificate IV Canine Behavioural Training (Delta Society Australia)

Tel: 01360 550 165 Mobile: 07925 846 618
rose@breathingspace.vet www.breathingspace.vet

Ballochruin Engineers

Ballochruin, Balfroun Station,
Balfroun, G63 0LE

**Repairs of garden, agricultural
and marine equipment**

Welding

Phone Cameron McFarlane 07469 177058
Email Cameron@BallochruinEngineers.co.uk



STRATHENDRICK CLASSIC CAR CLUB



The SCCC have had another busy season. The winter club evenings at Buchanan Castle Golf Club were very entertaining. The first meeting of 2017 saw the second round of vintage virtual racing and some very competitive driving. The final was contested between first-round winner Ben Somerville and the winner of the second, Paul Speirs. After a close finish, Ben Somerville was crowned the winner. Other evening meetings included an interesting talk with slides and film from Malcolm Smith entitled 'Classic and Sports Car Racing'. The following meeting featured a talk about tyres given by Graham Johnstone of SMS Tyres in Stirling. This provided a lot of information which was new to most of us and extremely useful.

Two runs have taken place this year, with a short run in the Kippen and Buchlyvie areas in April prior to the AGM. In mid May, the annual two-day run took place to the picturesque location of Portpatrick, with a two-night stay at the excellent Fernhill Hotel. Eleven cars took part, setting off from Drymen car park in rather overcast conditions which improved as the day went on.

Eight cars took part in the Drymen Gala Parade on a very wet Saturday, wending their way from Drymen Primary School to the football field. Despite the conditions, the grass field was very firm and none of the classic cars got bogged down (which was a concern at the outset). Nor did the wet conditions dampen spirits, and by lunchtime the weather improved. The Gala Queen judging the cars awarded Nigel Kelly's Land Rover the winner, for which he received a splendid plaque and a bottle of malt whisky.



In July, the annual CarBQ took place at Mid Balfunning, the home of Chairman Laurence Grainger and his wife, June. To add to the fun of the day there were driving manoeuvring contests on the grass field which had been greatly enjoyed last year. In August, members' cars will be on display at the Balfron Bash. Other runs are planned in August, September and October.

The committee continue to plan an interesting and varied future programme. Membership currently stands at a healthy 43, owning a varied selection of classics, within the local catchment area. New members are always welcome and do not need a classic car to join – just an interest in cars and motoring.

For more details about our up-and-coming programme of events, please contact Club Secretary Robin Johnston (robertjohnston432@btinternet.com).

Hire or Buy Locally at...

- ✓ Extensive Range ✓ Friendly Team
- ✓ Expert Advice ✓ Training Provided
- ✓ Service & Support



CHARITY PARTNERSHIP 2017

Fraser C Robb will donate £50 to Trossachs Search & Rescue for each Cub Cadet mower sold in 2017.



Stirling Road, Drymen, Glasgow G63 0AA
 T: 01360 660 688
 E: admin@frasercrobb.com
www.frasercrobb.co.uk



The Beast of Killearn Goes Viral

A curious beastie has been spotted lurking in the cow field. Rearing up in the tall grass, it has given pause to many walkers – and possibly more than a few dogs – as they take their morning constitutional. It caught the attention of Killearn's own 'Jimmy' Wright, who posted a photo of the curious critter on Facebook. Before you could say 'Silly Season', the post was shared around the world, and the discovery found its way into several national papers.

Was Killearn the summer holiday home of the Loch Ness Monster? A biologically impossible cross between an otter and a dog? Part tortoise, part stoat? The Common Haggis? Some speculated about the wooden nature of the creature's posture. Some accused oor Jimmy of photoshopping the picture!

Whatever it was, it needed to be called something, so Jimmy set up a contest. There were many colourful suggestions, but the winner was local lad, Matthew Whitson (aged 10): Branchiosaurus perfectly described the attributes of Killearn's own claim to monstrous fame.

Expect visitors climbing over the stile behind the Abbeyfield, kitted out in camouflage and midge nets, with tripods under their arms, stalking Branchy. Perhaps some enterprising child can set up a lemonade stand? NB



Get on the Buses!

Some Killearn residents will be aware of the campaign to restore buses to the B12 Balfroon to Stirling route. We are delighted to report that the following buses have restarted:

Weekday:

10.10 Balfroon to Stirling;

15.55 Stirling to Balfroon
(previously 16.05)

Saturday:

08.10 Balfroon to Stirling;

09.00 Stirling to Balfroon

We now need more help from local commuters.

In order to keep these services, we must use them. Concession holders can play a big part because two concessions are the equivalent of just over one adult fare. So the more concession holders who travel, the better. If everyone with a bus pass travelled once or twice a week, issues in rural communities about losing bus services would disappear.

We have to acknowledge that the condition of the buses often put people off using them. We have been far too complacent in accepting poor-quality vehicles – noisy, rickety with no heating, poor suspension or water coming in everywhere. We are now in the process of addressing the problem by bringing it to the attention of the management at First Midland Bluebird.

To help us get better buses, we ask passengers to report any vehicle issues that have ruined their journey. By all means mention the issue to your driver, but also report your complaints directly to First Scotland East. We need to make them aware that the Balfroon Depot, the long-suffering drivers, and their customers, deserve more user-friendly buses.

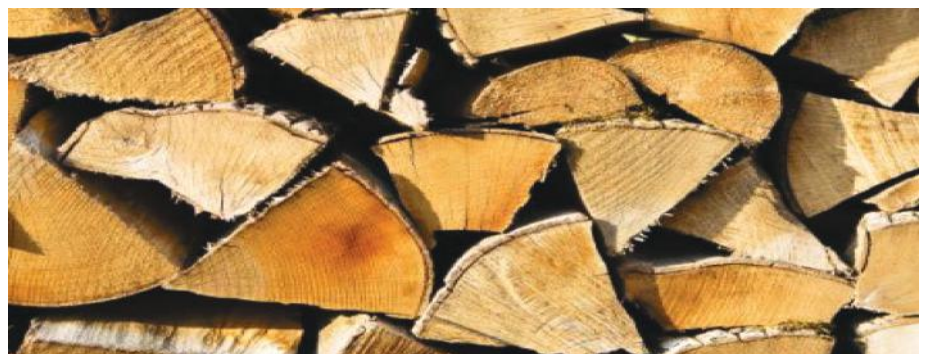
You will find contact details on the back of your bus timetable. Keep your ticket which will give the bus number and driver number at the bottom. This can then be reported

online at First Scotland East using the mail icon or by phoning Larbert directly (01324 602200).

If you are unhappy with the response or subsequent action by First Bus in addressing your complaint, please don't hesitate to contact Bus Users Scotland (0300 111 0001). They will pursue the issue on your behalf.

We cannot expect improvements overnight, but hopefully these measures will enable us to get a decent rural public transport system.

VALERIE BRAND



Firewood for Sale

Forthvale Contractors
tel: 01360 440294
mobile: 07890 331702
drew@forthvale.co.uk



Home-Grown Business



MacColl Landscaping is now 10 years in business.

It was started by local man, Scott MacColl as a two-person operation working in small gardens throughout the area. It now has 19 people directly employed by MacColl, plus the recently incorporated P.D. Stokes, as well as a number of sub-contractors. Many of the employees are local to Killearn, employed as both skilled workers and trainees, who have progressed

over the years into skilled landscape gardeners.

Scott says the business has surpassed his expectations and he is proud of the past and present teams who have made this possible. 'We have grown steadily over the last 10 years maintaining the same ethos we set out with. This is to work hard and supply a good quality job at a fair price which enhances our customers' homes and gardens.'

The Weather Channel

Recording the temperature, rainfall and wind from a weather centre is the easy part of starting an article for the *Courier*. More difficult is predicting what is likely to happen in the next week or months ahead. There is a need to understand the nature of weather patterns and perhaps it is best to examine what are the sources of our weather.

The sun's heat is the origin of all our weather. It enables masses of air to form and circulate in our atmosphere. The ensuing movement creates differences in air pressure and this creates winds that can move the air rapidly about. Warm air rises, then cools and spreads, and this rising air causes low pressure and its associated cloud and rain. Where the air is sinking (rather than rising), high pressure forms and we have drier weather, often with high clouds or clear skies. These spells of high pressure are often called anticyclones and this high pressure rotates clockwise in our hemisphere.

We are assured of a very fine settled spell of weather when our weather forecasters tell us that we have a stationary or very slow moving anticyclone straddling the UK. This is exactly what happened in April and a large part of May and resulted in one of the driest Aprils since 1910. TOM RENFREW

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2017)						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Highest Temp	11.3	10.1	18.5	15.7	27.1	26.5
Lowest Temp	-6.0	-2.7	-2.4	-2.1	1.5	7.5
Mean Temp	4.8	5.3	6.8	7.8	11.9	13.0
Days Below Freezing	13	3	4	3	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	33.0	29.0	27.0	25.0	20.0	17.0
Monthly Rain	37.0	131.6	84.6	15.8	61.6	149.8
Most Rain in 24 hrs	7.8	17.0	14.6	6.4	12.8	22.6
Days without Rain	13	5	6	19	19	12
Cumulative Rainfall	37.0	158.6	223.2	269.0	330.6	480.4

Temperature in °C, rainfall in mm, and wind speed in miles per hour. Data in January and February from the Drymen Weather Centre during repairs to the Killearn Weather Centre.

TOWN & COUNTRY DESIGNS
ACCESSORIES • CARDS • COFFEE SHOP
16 BALFRON RD, KILLEARN G63 9NJ • T: 01360 550830



LIGHT LUNCHES & FABULOUS BAKING
ALL HOMEMADE • OPEN 7 DAYS

TOWN & COUNTRY DESIGNS



FABRICS • WALLPAPER • LIGHTING • FURNITURE
16 BALFRON RD, KILLEARN G63 9NJ • T: 01360 550830

INTERIOR DESIGN

SALE

FABRIC WALLPAPER LAMPS
CHANDELIERS MIRRORS RUGS
FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

A GREAT RANGE OF FABRIC REMNANTS & LARGE PIECES
IDEAL FOR CUSHION COVERS, BLINDS & COVERING CHAIRS.

OPENING TIMES: WEEKENDS ONLY 12-4pm
AT PANIK GALLERY, 13 MAIN STREET, KILLEARN

Tel: 01360 550830

Some Brew Ha Ha



Despite a downpour earlier in the day that would have sent even Noah scrambling for the Prozac, the weather held and the Killearn Beer Festival enjoyed another sunshine filled afternoon with more guests than any of the previous five events.

With over 600 in attendance, including many visitors from outwith the village, it still managed to retain a family and community feel which has been a key objective from the outset. As always, the event was held on the first Saturday of June at The Old Mill, and was accompanied initially by local singer Mark Curtis and local band Bardowie, with other bands taking us into the evening. A great range of food was provided by The Old Mill and Hewitt & Aker.

App of the Issue: Pocket



Ever find yourself coming across something online you really want to read or watch, but you just don't have the time at that moment?

There is an incredible wealth of content available across the web, but unfortunately there's not always time to read every interesting article as soon as it's released. Pocket is an app that's designed to solve this problem.

Pocket allows you to save articles and videos from the internet or apps straight to your phone where you can read them in your own time. It works by using the share button of many apps and websites (with a little bit of extra set up) to put an article or video straight to any device for you to access later.

As a young person with something of a mobile phone 'addiction', an app like this works wonders. If you're reading an article on the bus and you reach your stop before you can finish it – no problem, you can simply save it for later. This convenience can easily become part of your life. The app also highlights a few of the most popular articles on the web, as well as a list of the current most popular videos people have set to watch later. You can also add friends on the app and see what articles are popular with them. If you think saving articles all to one place is for you, Pocket is available as a free download for Apple and Android.

JAMIE CUSHING

The theme this year was to feature breweries from across the Central Belt and beers from Top Out, Cross Borders, Campervan and Up Front provided our appreciative visitors with the widest range to date. As ever, we featured three of our local favourites – Fallon, Fintry and Loch Lomond – as well as a wide range of ciders. By 7:30pm most of the 25 beer casks and kegs had run dry.

As with all the previous events, the majority of money earned will be targeted toward various local clubs, schools and charities which have already been the recipients of over £4,000 of such donations.

Finally, a big thank you to all the volunteers, The Old Mill, Hewitt & Aker and the musicians who helped make this another enjoyable day. The Beer Festival is now firmly established in the calendar as a great community event.

Thanks again for your support, and we look forward to seeing you on the first Saturday in June next year.

MARK WHITE



Need it Done Right?

**DUNRITE
PLUMBING**

Pride in Workmanship

Minor repairs to
complete installation

Complete Bathrooms and Kitchens

4x4 Van for all weather conditions

Fully Insured

FREE Estimates

No call out charge

T: 01360 550799

M: 07772944521

Dunrite.plumbing33@yahoo.co.uk

Colourful Killearn Rewilding the Village

The first rewards of your purchase of Co-op products when using your member's card can be seen in the magnificent display of wild flowers outside the new pavilion in the play park near the football pitch.

Colourful Killearn made a successful bid for a Co-op Local Community Fund grant to improve the appearance of public spaces, particularly on the approaches to the village, by planting with wild flowers. At the time of writing, £338.72 has been raised for this project so far.

If you shop in the Co-op and don't yet have a member's card, sign up today. If you have a card, but haven't elected which project you wish to support, just sign in online to your member's area. You can also choose to support KCFC's local walking map project or Loch Lomond Mountain Rescue. But remember – it is only Co-op own-brand products that count towards the awards.



Best China for This Anniversary

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation among older people. The charity operates through local groups who arrange monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for older people in the local community who are at risk of social isolation.

Each group is made up of approximately eight older people (normally someone 75 years or older and who lives alone), who we refer to as our 'older guests'. Local people, our hosts, lay on an afternoon tea party in their own home inviting the older guests along. Volunteer drivers collect the guests and accompany them to the tea party, before returning them home.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the West Stirlingshire Contact the Elderly group and to thank our hosts and other supporters, we arranged a party for everyone to get together.

Contact the Elderly groups don't raise their own funds. The tea parties are funded through the generosity of each host family and volunteer drivers meet the travel expenses. To pay for our unusual 'thank you party', we successfully applied for funding from Stirling Council's Community Grants Scheme. This allowed us to hire the function room at the Black Bull in Gartmore and provided traditional tea party food for everyone, including plenty of cakes. We were entertained with bagpipe and guitar music, and our longest-serving guest performed the ceremonial cutting of the cake.



In its 20 years, the West Stirlingshire group has had 48 older guests, 38 hosts and 13 drivers. Our guests come from Killearn, Balfroun, Buchlyvie, Drymen and Fintry and our hosts represent many of the West Stirlingshire villages and communities. The thank you party was attended by over 40 of our current and previous guests, hosts, drivers and other supporters. The opportunity to and celebrate the good work of Contact the Elderly was much appreciated by all.

If you know an isolated older person, please tell them about us. Our group organiser is Margaret Sparkes (01360 850492; mgtsparkes@btinternet.com) and more information about the charity can be found at www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk.

While the focus is on improving the lives of older people, the relationships built through the monthly tea parties make our hosts and drivers smile just as much as our guests.

KERRI MCPHERSON

What's in a House Name...?

Another addition to the *Courier's* occasional sleuthing series

...well, rather a lot actually. In recent issues, we have mused on the origins of the interesting names of properties in the village. Some relate to landscape features or local landmarks, but others are personal whims. We wondered where the unusual name Kerrix came from and Sue Dunaway, the present owner, took up the challenge of finding out by contacting a previous owner.

Kerrix Cottage (pictured right), as it was then, was built in 1935–6 by Mrs Bessie Mitchell as a summer house, with the main family home being in Glasgow's West End. The Mitchells had previously owned another country property in the Carrick area of Ayrshire, also called Kerrix – its title deriving from the place name.

Kerrix Cottage was designed by Mrs Mitchell's brother, architect Willie Boyd, who built a replica house in Drumbeg Loan that is still there. At that time, there were only two or three houses in Station Road. The garden was surrounded by fields (where Lampson and Allan roads are now), the railway ran along the valley floor and Killearn Hospital operated during the War. Mitchells married Cuthberts (both families residing in Glasgow but – by complete coincidence – having summer properties in Killearn) and Kerrix became a Cuthbert happy family home for many years.



Back to our starting theme – what other tales are there to tell?

Dunkyan House, where *Jonathan Creek* was filmed recently, means 'fort on a hill' – 'dun' being Gaelic for hill fort.

The present owner of Camelot doesn't know where the name originated, although her children call it the Princes' Tower, but the architect apparently built an exact replica in either New Zealand or America.

If you have a favourite house name in Killearn or an unusual tale to tell of village titles, please contact the Editor at courier@kfc.co.uk.

With thanks to Bess Guest (née Cuthbert), Sue Dunaway, Dorothy Dunkinson and Moyra Pepper.

Classical Music Concert



The Monzani Trio
are back for another concert!

Killearn Village Hall
23 September at 7.30pm

Tickets for sale from:
Hewitt and Aker,
3 Sisters Bake, Killearn
or monzani trio@gmail.com
and on the door

BATHROOM SPECIALIST

Plan, design, install

PLUMBING, CERAMIC TILING

STEPHEN MacMILLAN

FREE ESTIMATES



Established 1991

2 Lomond Terrace, Balfron, Glasgow, G63 0PQ

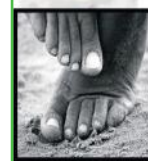
 (01360) 440534

Mobile: 07887 567 051

Foot Health Clinic

Jacqueline Morton

Foot Health Practitioner



MAFHP MCFHP

01360 550 374

07703 799 112

Killearn Pharmacy - Tuesday 9am - 1pm
ld Surgery, Buchlyvie - Tuesday 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Strathblane Pharmacy - Alternative Mondays
Torrence - Thursday 9am - 4pm

The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring

In the course of a recent chat in the church hall, Ena reminded me of Billy Connolly's description of the Scottish climate. According to Sir Billy, Scotland has two seasons: winter and May. At the moment of writing, rain is sluicing past the window, and Sir Billy is spot on.

By the time you read this, however, he could be proved horribly wrong. We could be sweltering, and exhibits being prepared for the Flower Show could have dried up in the heat. But wasn't May itself wonderful?

Here in Scotland, the month of May has everything going for it. As far as I can see, spring further south lasts longer and is more spread out. In Scotland, everything comes out at once, accompanied throughout by powerful scents and enthusiastic birdsong. It is a full-on assault on the senses.

I remember some years ago hearing on radio someone talking about LARA, the League Against Rhododendrons and Azaleas, of which he was a fully paid-up member. He fulminated about these plants, calling them vulgar foreign invaders, among other less charitable descriptions. I understand that rhoddies did come from the far east, but surely they've been here long enough to apply for British



citizenship? Those ladies who were part of the Inner Wheel trip to Mount Stuart on Bute saw them at their staggering best. Some of them were vast, but remained well controlled, handsome and lustrous. We would be severely deprived if LARA had its way.

Even without the backdrop of a stately home, the flowers this spring were particularly brilliant, were they not? I took several photographs of our two azaleas, both deep pink, and though the pictures will probably just be filed along with the ones I have taken of outstanding sunsets over the years, one feels one does have to record such intense beauty. A walk through the village in the May sunshine this year was a particularly colourful experience.

And it didn't stop at the village boundaries. The early leaves on the trees were a kind of bright unreal green that made one wonder what filter nature was using. The bluebells, even in woodland shade, stopped the breath with their sheer loveliness. The hawthorn hedgerows were

laden with snow-white blossom and overpowering scent. The gorse on the Stockiemuir Road and over towards Kepculloch was as brilliant a gold as one has ever seen.

There can be few places in Scotland where the surrounding roads in all directions have so much to offer in terms of scenic beauty. Turn towards Croftamie at Finnich Toll, and you see a very pretty view to the right. Drive on, and at the bend the landscape opens out into the kind of vista that always takes you by surprise, even when you're waiting for it. The Stockiemuir Road is, in places, a little austere, but is always impressive, in any direction. The road to Milngavie via Blanefield feels more domestic, offering prettiness rather than grandeur. And the road to Stirling seems to have everything, from tunnels of trees to open vistas of the hills, until the castle and the monument emerge from the distant mist and stop the heart with pride. Who would live anywhere else?

The best road, of course, is the one that takes us home. To see any of the handsome wooden signs telling us we're on the edge of Killearn lightens the spirit and lets us breathe more freely. Especially in May.

JOYCE BEGG



Arbroathsmokiesdirect.co.uk
01241 876254
STUART'S FRESH FISH

**Our door-to-door fish van
delivers on WEDNESDAY
Balfroun (am) Killearn (pm)
Call us NOW to arrange**

46 Ladybridge Street, Arbroath, DD11 1AX
Family Business est. 1963

Lowering the Voting Age: the debate

The issue of lowering the voting age to 16 has always been a matter for discussion, but it was thrust to the forefront of many people's minds when the age was lowered for the 2014 Independence referendum. It resurfaced for the recent snap election, this time for the UK as a whole.

In this article we want to present two sides of the argument from the perspective of two young people potentially affected by the change.

Lowering the voting age would get younger people interested in politics

FOR

The recent snap election saw 68.7 per cent of the UK's population turn out to vote. If we allowed 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, they will be encouraged to get interested in politics and would be more likely to continue the trend of voting into their adult lives. It is so important to have lots of people voting as it gives a better reflection of what the population wants. This would increase the percentage of the population that voted.

Most 16- and 17-year-olds are still at school and schools have a responsibility to give balanced and unbiased information about politics. This allows people to obtain the knowledge and develop their own opinions based on facts, not feelings.

AGAINST

Young people can be susceptible to the influence of the political views of their parents if this is their only source of information about politics. A study by Austrian and Norwegian scientists discovered that 16- and 17-year-olds are likely to vote the same way as their parents.

It could be argued that if voting was seen as an adult responsibility, then perhaps more 18-year-olds would be voting. Although starting voting at a young age may lead people down a path of voting for life, it is also possible it could put adults off voting if they don't view it as a both a privilege and a responsibility.

Education should be the priority up until the age of 16. Teaching young people about the priorities and views of the different parties as well as learning about useful websites, such as <https://uk.isidewith.com>, young people would be able to vote based on what they truly believe in when they reach adulthood.

A 16- and 17-year-old undertakes almost all adult responsibilities including paying tax, and has many of the rights held by adults, such as getting married and owning property. Why should they not have a say in how the government is run?

FOR

A 16-year-old can leave home, buy a property, hold a full-time job, get married, start a family, pay tax and join the armed forces. Why should we deny them the right to have their say on these important matters that affect them?

If they are contributing taxes to the country, why don't they get a say in how their money is spent? If they are risking their lives to fight for their country, don't they deserve a say in which wars it goes into? There was similar argument in the United States in response to the Vietnam war, resulting in the voting age being lowered from 21 to 18. They recognised the injustice of asking people to fight for their country, while denying them an opportunity to voice their opinions.

AGAINST

While 16- and 17-year-olds technically have these rights, they are often limited, and some of the power can remain in the parents' hands because they are not yet legally adults. Those under 18 wishing to join the army must seek the permission of their parents, otherwise they cannot join, and even then, they are not allowed to serve on the front lines, so do not serve as full adults in the army until they are 18.

While 16-year-olds may technically hold all of these rights, some of them are rarely exercised. In 2015 – the last year for which statistics are available – the average age of first marriages for men and women in Scotland was 33 and almost 30, respectively. The average age for someone to buy their first property in the UK is 30. None of this suggests a high proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds are rushing to get married or to climb onto the property ladder.

It has been the case for many years that a person becomes an adult at 18 years of age. That is when we as young people have to accept our adult responsibilities. Voting is, and has to be, one of those responsibilities marking a step forward in life made only when people are ready.

Just like all political debates this issue does not have a single correct answer and the debates will continue no matter what the outcome. This article itself proves that two young people can have very opposing views. But the most important thing is to get people interested, involved and caring about UK politics because we are the future – as scary as that may be.

JAMIE CUSHING & KIM DENTON

Killearn Malawi Group Fashion Show

Friday, 19 May 2017 was a typical rainy evening in Killearn. Despite the atmosphere outside, the Kirk Hall was alive with anticipation for the exciting night ahead – Killearn Malawi Group's Fashion Show in collaboration with the Milngavie branch of M&Co.

With a short introduction on the aim of the show, local celebrity Pamela Maxwell compèred proceedings with a humorous and entertaining take on events. Our glamorous, hand-selected models from Killearn and Balfron bravely paraded their stunning outfits, first a casual one followed by formal attire, to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. Matching accessories were worn to highlight their chosen outfit. A huge

thank you must go to Elizabeth Simpson, Doreen Snadden, Nancy Bates, Pat Dickie and Eva Mailer for taking to the catwalk with the sort of panache that wouldn't go amiss in Paris or Milan.

The evening continued with wine flowing, as was the chat. Everybody had an excellent evening, filled with laughter and enjoyment. Thanks to Lesley Svenson and Peggy Brown for bringing light to the foyer with their wonderful stalls.

A full raffle with fabulous prizes brought the evening to an end. Thanks to everyone who donated so generously,



and with special thanks to The Old Mill, Three Sisters Bake, Kerr at the Aizle Gym, Laura Bruce (beautician), David MacDonald (butcher) and Endrick Blooms. A massive THANK YOU must go to all the staff at M&Co., Milngavie, for their continuous support before and on the evening, as well as their generous discount on clothes bought in the shop after the event.

The KMG Committee is very grateful to Shona Kelday and Helen Mailer, who both put in a huge

amount of work to organise this successful event. A grand total of £1,174.43 was raised and will help fund projects in Malawi, including support for a women's craft group, and buying chairs and desks for a secondary school.

Please visit the new Killearn Malawi Group website designed by a Malawian webhosting company (www.killearnmalawigroup.org) and keep a look out for news about our AGM in October.

KA

School of Dance

Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Modern Stage

Taught to children from 2 1/2 years

Enrolment for Strathblane classes:

Tues 22nd August, 3 - 5pm, Edmonstone Hall, Blanefield

Enrolment for Killearn classes:

Thur 24th August, 3 - 5pm, Killearn Village Hall

Under 3s dance FREE!



Lynda Turner
School of Dance

Tel: 01360 770 390

E: lyndaturnerdancing@hotmail.com



Lynda Turner
★ SCHOOL OF DANCE ★

A News World of Your Own

Do you use social media as your primary news source? Twitter feeds and Facebook links are replacing tabloids and broadsheets – a 10-minute scroll on your smartphone to check the day's headlines is edging in on the daily paper. By 2019, it is estimated that 26 per cent of overall media consumption will be on mobiles, and 75 per cent of all internet traffic will be coming from mobile phones by the end of 2017.

From this we can curate our news based on our priorities and interests. Your social media feed will not be the same as everyone else's, but is customised from your friends and the pages you both like. This has its benefits, making it extremely easy to find local information based on your location settings and allows businesses to connect with potential customers.

A large amount of this personalisation is already done for us. Facebook, for example, fits its users


into a demographic based on age, location and likes, and tailors many adverts directly to you. Take myself, a teenage girl living in rural Scotland. Popping up on my timeline are travel agents advertising student holiday deals and clothing companies that I have previously ordered from. It can seem much like a online Killearn *Courier*, with local businesses able to prioritise advertising and local news to people in the area.

The importance of customisation lessens as people use social media for their primary news sources, like 28 per cent of young people, overtaking TV for the first time last year. It is easier to find alternative viewpoints on the internet compared to reading the same newspaper daily. Of those surveyed by the Reuters Institute, 36 per cent believed they consumed news on social media from different sources than they would usually use. The downside is that customised feeds can merely act as an extension

of the users' own viewpoints. Facebook tracked 10 million of its US users and split them into red (Republicans) and blue (Democrats) by the information on their profiles. They found, unsurprisingly, that most news sites on 'red' profiles were very conservative, and vice versa for the more liberal 'blues'. This could risk telling users what they want to hear and perhaps dissuade them from accessing alternative sources. However, this is arguably no worse than someone reading the same paper every day and being exposed regularly to the bias – however slight – of that publication.

Overall, the mix of diversification and personalisation of social media news sources creates an environment where users can seek out alternative viewpoints to those already on their timeline. That is, if they are able to siphon away the 'fake news'. But that's another story...

KIRSTY MCARTHUR




PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

LANDSCAPE • PORTRAITURE • SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is everywhere in this modern world. But how many people actually know how to create an amazing photograph? Fire & Peace Photography Workshops will teach you how to *create art*.


From teaching the fundamentals of composition, to the often-neglected camera technology, you'll come away with a renewed confidence in photography, and a passion to explore it even further.

"I came away feeling a lot more confident about my work, as well as furthering my knowledge of shutter speeds, different types of lenses, composition, and a passion to get out there as soon as possible!"



SEE IT. SHOOT IT.

www.fireandpeace.co.uk
www.facebook.com/FireandPeacePhotographyGerryWard




WILD CAMPING

ADVENTURES THROUGH THE REMOTES OF SCOTLAND

Fire & Peace Wild Camping's message to the people is to reconnect with our planet again through our natural surroundings that most of us tend to take for granted, or ignore.

We can offer you unique adventures in various remote locations throughout the wilds of Scotland that will help you to become and feel part of the land again. After all, this is where you truly belong.

You'll learn traditional fire lighting techniques, cooking methods, and many other wild camping skills. But most of all you'll have a truly memorable experience. As one wild camper said: *"My first night in a bivvy under a waxing moon in the woods...I'm hooked...The perfect salve for mind, body and soul."*



LIVE. DON'T EXIST.

www.fireandpeace.co.uk
www.facebook.com/fireandpeacewildcamping

Killlearn Health Centre Update

Staff News – Dr Katy Woods has finished her training with us. It has been a pleasure working with Dr Woods, and we all wish her well in her future career as a GP. We are pleased to welcome back Dr Andrew Lennox, who was with us in 2015–16, and we also welcome Dr Shin Gooi, who will be with us until February 2018, returning in August 2019.

Travel Vaccinations – we offer a full travel vaccination service at the surgery. Please contact Practice Nurse Christine Montgomery with any questions you may have regarding travel.

Public Holidays – due to the way Forth Valley public holidays fall, we will be open as usual on Monday, 25 September, which is the Monday of the (Glasgow) September weekend.

Out-of-Hours Access – to access medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 number is 111.

Online Appointments – you can now book appointments online at killlearnhealthcentre.com. When you register for appointment booking you will automatically have access to our prescription ordering system. We will continue to run our original online prescription service in tandem with the new service. We would encourage you to register for the new service(s).

Text Reminders – we offer a free appointment reminder by text to your mobile phone. Please ask for details.

Make the Most of Your Minor Injuries Unit

Many local people with minor injuries automatically head for the Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. But you can often be seen and treated more quickly at the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Stirling Community Hospital.

NHS Forth Valley's MIU is open seven days a week, from 9.00am to 9.00pm. It is staffed by emergency nurse practitioners who can provide treatment for a wide range of minor injuries including minor burns and scalds, infected wounds, sprains, cuts and grazes. Staff can also examine and treat minor injuries to the eye, ear, head and neck areas, and can arrange X-rays for suspected broken bones.

The unit is based in Stirling at the site of the former Stirling Royal Infirmary, and offers treatment to patients from across Forth Valley. No appointment is necessary.

Babies under 12 months old with minor injuries should be taken to Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

To find out more about the NHS Forth Valley Minor Injuries Unit visit nhsforthvalley.com/miu.

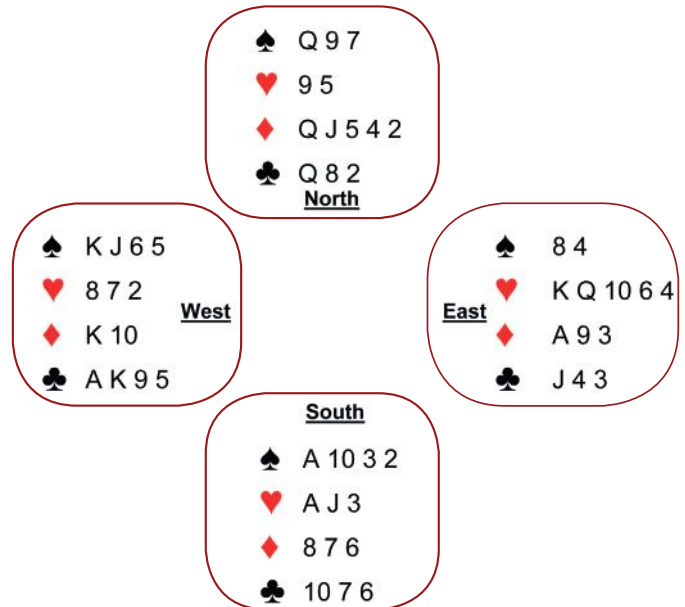
If you are unsure whether you should attend the Minor Injuries Unit, please phone 01786 434036 to check with local staff.

Bridge by Zorro

The hand in this issue is taken from the Epsom Worldwide Bridge Contest in 1991. This is a competition held in our local club, but using the same hands that were played on the same day in over 80 countries and involving about 90,000 players. We didn't do too badly, coming in the top 1,500 pairs.

What would you have done sitting East/West with this hand? The solution is on page 40.

Dealer: East Both Sides Vulnerable



Steven Skinner

Joinery, Glazing & Property Maintenance

Glazing Repairs

Misted/cracked double glazing units replaced

ALL TYPES OF JOINERY WORK UNDERTAKEN
Upvc/timber windows and doors,
Upvc roofline cladding
and Kitchens all supplied and fitted

CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
11 Strathview Terrace
Balfron G63 0PS
Telephone: 01360 449 080
Mobile: 07713 805 086
Email: stevenskinnerjoinery@gmail.com



Village Hall Update

We were extremely sorry to receive the resignation of Ian Sinclair, our Hall Supervisor, as the result of his wife Katy's illness, and our thoughts are with them both at this difficult time.

We have appointed a new Hall Supervisor, Adrian Adolphus (pictured below), and are delighted to welcome him to our team. Ado



was a Police Licensing and Custody Sergeant with the Metropolitan Police Service in London before retiring to Killearn and we hope Village Hall users will introduce themselves to him in his new role when their paths cross.

The Killearn Enterprise Hub (KEH) held its first meeting in March led by STEP. This was extremely successful with around 50 attending plus six pupils from Balfron High School. The agenda started with a morning workshop on 'getting your business found on Google' followed by lunch provided by Three Sisters Bake. The afternoon included a range of presentations covering growing and funding rural businesses, developing young workforce and highs and lows of running a rural business. The afternoon ended with questions, networking and tea and cakes.

The next KEH meeting is on Thursday, 7 September. See below for details of the proposed agenda. The main aim of KEH is to raise awareness of opportunities, and we hope anyone starting a career, looking for a career change, 'mum-preneurs' with local businesses, graduates and other local organisations will join us in the Village Hall's Garden Room for the September meeting.

We are pleased to announce that we are extending the Licence with Three Sisters Bake for a further five years from August 2019. This early decision is the result of us receiving requests for weddings in and beyond 2019. We have also been extremely pleased with the success of the café under Three Sisters Bake's management which we believe is an important attraction in the village.

BRIAN SIMMERS

Killearn Enterprise Hub

Following on from the successful first meeting of the Killearn Enterprise Hub (KEH), the next meeting will be on Thursday, 7 September in the Village Hall. The theme will be working in rural business as owner or employee. There will be a strong focus on the experience of running a local business.

After short presentations from local business owners, individuals and small groups will have the opportunity to ask questions about setting up and running a business or working for a local business. There will also be information about modern apprenticeships and the difference they can make to a small company. This will give the young people attending from Balfron High School a chance to find out more about starting a career as a modern apprentice in a rural business.

One of the aims of the Hub is to invite young people along to find out more about business and enterprise in their community. This aspect is being developed in partnership with the High School as part of its Future Pathways programme. We hope that this will open up opportunities for young people to gain work experience or take up voluntary positions with local organisations as well as considering a career in the rural community.

The Hub is a forum for local business people to come together in a relaxed environment to share their experiences informally. Many people who are self-employed or running a small business in the community have limited time and opportunity to meet others in a similar position. In many cases, they do not know what



other business enterprises exist in the community and what opportunities there may be to develop their own business by working with others.

There are already some good examples of small businesses working together and 'mini supply chains' within the community and the Hub is an ideal place to develop this further for the benefit of business and the community.

All businesses are very welcome at the Hub, and we have already identified some of the sectors that are strong in the community including digital technologies and social media, creative industries, food, drink and hospitality, land-based industries, and tourism and care.

The meeting on 7 September will take place in the Garden Room of the Village Hall from 1.30pm with registration and a free sandwich lunch available from 12.30pm. Further information, including how to register, will be available closer to the event on notice boards, social media and the Killearn Community Futures website.

IAN HOWIE

What's in a Bottle?

Not to get political, but since the whole Brexit thing started, have you noticed the cost of everyday essentials going up a little? While one could argue wine does not sit in this category, for some of us it has been known to find itself higher on the shopping list than bread and milk.

According to the UK wine industry, the average price of a bottle of wine now sits at more than £5.50, the highest it has ever been. Given it is starting to cost us all that little bit more, through a combination of a weak pound and a further increase in alcohol duty coming into effect this spring, it seems a good time to look at what you are actually paying for, and where the sweet spot is that gives you the most wine quality for your money without breaking the bank.

If one manages to find a wine for £5 then once all the other costs have been taken into consideration, the money left for the wine itself is 7.4 per cent, or 37p, which is not a lot really. Move up to £7.50, and the money available for the wine jumps to 20 per cent. And if you feel like splashing out a little on a £10 bottle, a whole 27.6 per cent of the cost has gone towards the wine itself. Given how much more quality can be had between £7.50 and £10 a bottle, here are recommendations from our local shops that are worth that extra money: Chinon, Domaine

de La Noblaie, France, £9.99, Co-op. Chinon is made from the Cabernet Franc grape, which is medium bodied with lots of raspberry and violet flavours. It is also one of the few reds that can be chilled slightly should you find yourself in the middle of a very hot day while in the mood for drinking red.

Casa Bonita Sauvignon Blanc, Spain, £8.50, Hewitt & Aker. A very good value example of this variety with classic Sauvignon with beautiful crisp acidity. From a lesser known region in Spain, this one gives great wine quality for money as a start point and is well worth trying.

ELAINE TAYLOR

Vinonomics 2017

UK wine pricing uncovered

Over half the price of a £5 bottle of wine is tax and just 37p pays for the wine itself. The good news is that if you spend just a few pounds more, you get a lot more for your money.



All figures are indicative, based on a "typical" bottle of wine and do not include OCT. In reality margins, packaging and logistics differ depending on the business and products involved, but the overall picture will still be the same. *Average price for a bottle of wine in the UK.

www.bibendum-wine.co.uk



NEW MENU COMING SOON!

IDEAL VENUE FOR
UNIQUE EVENTS.

STRETCH TENT & YURT
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE.



01360 550068 6 Balfroon Road, Killearn, G63 9NJ.

www.theoldmillkillearn.co.uk

Killearn Community Council Annual Report 2016–17

The regular business of the Community Council involves commenting on planning applications, reporting road problems and monitoring local services.

As in other villages in West Stirlingshire, closure of local shops and businesses was a major concern. The Co-op decision not to open a Post Office counter in the village store was a real disappointment. Previous trading figures led them to believe that it would not be financially viable. Should circumstances change, KCC will ask the Co-op to reconsider this decision. We were delighted to hear of plans to open the former Spar building as a Montessori School, but unfortunately the plans will not proceed at present. Several staff from Stirling Council's Economic Development Unit visited KCC to discuss their plans for rural development.

Further details on all these topics can be found on our website (www.killearncc.org.uk).

Black Bull Update: Punch Taverns were unsuccessful in finding a licensee to re-open the hotel, which closed in January 2016. We understand they also failed to find a purchaser for the building.

A property consultant engaged to consider the viability of the hotel, or alternative uses for the building, met with representatives of KCC and KCFC to hear local views. He concluded that the hotel was not viable, as the Village Hall was now a successful wedding venue, and the Old Mill was meeting the need for a pub.

An application for change of use from hotel to residential, and conversion of the hotel to 17 flats was lodged in March 2017 and supported by KCC on a vote of 6 to 1. A development of flats in the centre of the village would meet a frequently-expressed need for small housing units to purchase.

This application was withdrawn in June 2017 and a revised application for 14 flats is to be lodged. In this case, a special meeting of KCC will be convened during the summer to consider the revised application.

Blairessen Development: A further public consultation event on the proposed Blairessen development was held by Mactaggart and Mickel in September 2016, followed in December 2016 by a planning application for 35 houses, of which 12 will be affordable houses to rent from Rural Stirling Housing Association. The plans were revised in the light of comments by the public and discussions with KCC's Community Panel.

The site is zoned for housing in the Local Development Plan, and a decision is expected from Stirling Council's Planning Panel in the near future.

Parking Issues in Killearn: Stirling Council provided funding for a traffic consultant to examine the pressures of parking in Killearn. A meeting was held of local businesses and organisations in the centre of the village, who own parking or whose activities generate a demand for parking. Occasional large events such as funerals and fireworks create problems for a limited time.

It was felt that parking is adequate outside peak times, using public car parks at the Health Centre, on Main Street opposite the Co-op and on-street parking.

People are asked to walk or cycle around the village where possible, and to avoid parking all day in private car parks, which can affect the viability of local businesses.

Broadband Coverage: Broadband coverage in Killearn has continued to improve at a slow pace, and half of the village now has access to Next Generation Broadband. Killearn Broadband Group (Chair Doug Ashworth) continues its efforts to investigate ways of improving coverage for properties and businesses in outlying areas (see Broadband Update article on page 5).

Former Killearn Hospital Site: No further plans to develop the former hospital site have appeared since the public consultation in May 2016. The recent tree felling operations have made this derelict site even more visible from the roadside, and allegations of illegal demolition of buildings were passed to Stirling Council.

Roads Update: A complete survey of the condition of roads and pavements in Killearn was made by KCC, and the results were discussed with senior staff of Stirling Council in April 2017.

A total of £1.23 million and £1.24 million was collected in Council Tax in Killearn during 2014–15 and 2015–16 respectively, yet in 2014–15 there was zero spend and in 2015–16 only £13,793 was spent on capital projects in the village. We are lobbying for a fairer distribution of resources.

The pavement on Balfron Road from the Village Hall to the hotel was repaired in 2016–17, together with passing places on Ballochruin Road.

In 2017–18, the pavement on Station Road from Drumore Road to Napier Road will be repaired; also road and pavement repairs at Harpers Road and at Gartness.

A81 Closure: Closure of the A81 at Balfron Station, owing to damage caused to the aqueduct by a vehicle collision, has been inconvenient for local residents and businesses. The aqueduct carries the water supply for 600,000 homes in Glasgow.

The repair is complex, and is scheduled to be carried out in summer and autumn 2017, avoiding the main tourist season as far as possible.

Bin Collections: Bin collections were a major source of confusion and complaint, following the introduction of the seven-day service. The new method of working has saved Stirling Council a lot of money, but the unreliable service requires to be improved.

The present Community Council will continue in office until October 2018. We were fortunate to be able to co-opt several new members – Heidi Bryce, Robert Dunn and Elizabeth Jones – but will say farewell to our Youth Member, Tom Morley, and to our Secretary, Margery Burdon (see next page). Her efficient handling of KCC business and her wise counsel will be sorely missed. We wish them both well in the future.

Thanks to all KCC members and to our Minutes Secretary, Christine Bauwens, for their hard work during the year, and to the Killearn Broadband Group and the Community Panel for their specialist advice. Thanks also to the Police and to our elected Councillors for their work on our behalf.

The Community Council is in abeyance during July and August, but the background work will continue.

MARGARET HARRISON,
CHAIR, KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Could you be Secretary of Killearn Community Council?

The Community Council needs to recruit a new Secretary for the period up to October 2018, when the present Council will be disbanded and a new Council established from November 2018.

Community councils were established in Scotland in 1973 to consult local communities and represent their views to local authorities and other public bodies on how services are delivered and other matters of concern locally. Regular business includes comments on planning applications, road repairs, bin collections and general community amenities; we also campaign on issues such as broadband coverage in Killearn and the state of the derelict former hospital site. The Secretary's duties include correspondence and other communications, booking venues for meetings, keeping an up-to-date membership list, agreeing agenda and minutes with the Chair and the Minutes Secretary, speaking on items at meetings and reading reports from Police or the Broadband Group in their absence.

The Secretary must live in the Killearn CC area, which includes Boquhan, Dumgoyne and the surrounding countryside. He or she must be well organised, energetic and conscientious, be fluent in preparing documents and confident in public speaking. This is a voluntary post.

If you would like to discuss the post informally with the Chair or the outgoing Secretary, please enquire at ContactUs@KillearnCC.org.uk.

Summer Comes to Blaressan



Summer brings many distractions as well as the effort of keeping our gardens colourful and perhaps fruitful, or at least presentable, but beyond the fences there are other displays which may escape our notice.

In early July, Blaressan field, on the edge of Killearn, was particularly attractive. The heads of its many grass species swayed in bands of soft colour from cream to violet above the flowers in the turf. One of the flowers, about 25cm in height, so not obvious in a casual glance, was the Lesser Butterfly Orchid, *Platanthera bifolia*, (pictured), and well worth a second look. It is not uncommon, but is local in Scotland and found mostly in areas of 'unimproved grassland'.

The little brown Ringlet butterfly was more obvious flitting from flower to flower. ANNE CHAMBERS



The Hoolie Dhu
Saturday 11th November 2017, 7.30pm,
Killearn Village Hall

The organisers welcome all the
"Casual Kilted Gents & Bonnie Lassies"
to The Hoolie Dhu, 2017

Full bar and stand-up supper provided by **The Old Mill**
Live music from **Roadhouse**

Terms & Conditions: Tickets are priced at £25 and are not refundable. Please bring this ticket with you to the Hoolie Dhu. Admittance is strictly on presentation of a valid ticket only. Your ticket is also your voucher for your supper. Over 18's only.

Tickets available from **Late August**



- Oil Heating Engineers
- AGAs, Rayburns & Boilers
- Central Heating & Hot Water



Your Heating is a family business that works on domestic Oil / Kerosene systems

We work on all makes and layouts of Oil Cookers, Oil Boilers, domestic hot water and central heating systems.

tel: 01786 599771 / 07398 510771
email: contact@yourheating.co.uk
web: www.yourheating.co.uk

We are based in Thornhill, Stirlingshire and cover Stirling, Falkirk, Perthshire, Fife, Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Lothian, Lanark, Dumbaron, Renfrew and more...

Strathendrick Singers – 40 Years of Music



Copyright N. McNab

Strathendrick Singers – a history

One evening in 1977, a group of friends and I were round my piano preparing an entertainment for a village event. They were Joyce Begg, Liz Brander and Mike Ryall. In conversation, Mike bemoaned the fact that there was no local choir.

I mentioned that I loved training choirs, although at that time my only experience was with school choirs. Mike, with his enthusiasm and endless energy, went into action putting up posters around the village inviting people to apply for an audition. The only criterion for entry was the ability to hold a tune. All 24 entrants were accepted.

A committee was formed with Mike as Chairman, Joyce Begg as Librarian, David Marr as Treasurer and myself, Rosalind MacGowan, as Musical Director. As our first concert approached, we asked Helen Barclay to be our accompanist. Thus was launched the Strathendrick Singers.

Our first concert was a Christmas one. It was pretty rough, but there was great enthusiasm and a lot of fun.

Over the years we became musically more ambitious, performing works such as Bach's *Magnificat* in St Giles Cathedral, the *Mass in B Minor* and *Carmina Burana* along with the Rosenethe Singers and Crieff Choral society. We also staged three Gilbert and Sullivan operettas under the guidance of the brilliant Ken Barrett, who also rewrote the scripts.

There were many Christmas parties and memorable summer barbecues at Dalnair farm (the home of Catherine Davidson-Carr) and at Park of Drumquhassle (the home of Anne and Donald Henson).

Over the years many friendships have been made and much lovely music-making enjoyed together.

ROSALIND MACGOWAN



Rosalind MacGowan, first Musical Director & Mark Evans, current Musical Director



Singing is good for you, and Strathendrick Singers have been a force for good for 40 years.

Little did the four of us who set up the choir realise how successfully things would turn out.

Our Christmas concert is loved by our regular attenders, and the spring concert is also greatly enjoyed by both audience and singers. To sing with 50 other like-minded people is hugely enjoyable. The challenge with more difficult music is to get it right and sing it well.

With simpler music, we resist the temptation to be casual, and sing it as beautifully as we can. I have loved singing with the choir. I have made many friends, and sung lots of marvellous music. The choir is on our doorstep. Come and hear us.

JOYCE BEGG



Something Old – Something New

With a single half beat introduction from two grand pianos, and like a celebratory firework display, the Strathendrick Singers 40th Anniversary Concert got off to a fiery start with a breath-taking performance of Carl Orff's boisterous *Carmina Burana*. The choir was accompanied by pianists, Claire Haslin and Judith Kearny, and seven percussion players. The slower movements were handled sensitively by the soprano and baritone soloists, Joanna Norman and Francis Church. Almost too soon, it was the turn of the full choir to conclude the work with a flourish that echoed its beginning.

The second half of the concert saw the world première of 'a quiet life', a short work by 'adopted composer' Aran Browning. There was an air of expectation and some nervousness, but the choir tackled the challenges of the complex piece without hesitation. The catchy introductory theme and the many novel sonorities that ensued were much appreciated young and old alike. The history of music is full of tales of tense first performances and composers who have gone on to great things. We are grateful for such a memorable evening in Killearn, and the chance to hear the old along with the new. Thank you, Aran.

Strathendrick Singers can look towards the next 40 years, with a sense of both tradition and musical innovation.

ROY BURDON

About Strathendrick Singers

Strathendrick Singers is a 50-strong amateur choir, drawing our singers from all the communities of West Stirlingshire. We exist because we love singing, and we thrive on getting to know and understand great musical works and performing them for people to hear and enjoy. Known mainly for our classical repertoire, we have performed major works by Mozart, Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Beethoven, and Fauré. More contemporary works tackled with critical success include the Scottish Premiere of Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*, Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. This year we worked on a specially-commissioned piece, Aran Browning's 'a quiet life', about the 40 years of the choir's existence.

Forty years. It's an impressive record for a local choir set up by just four enthusiasts: Rosalind MacGowan, Michael Ryall, Joyce Begg and Elizabeth Brander. Joyce and Liz are both still singing with us, as are Jenny Lunn and Catherine Davidson-Carr, who were among the early pioneers. The accompanist for the first 30 years was Helen Barclay, who still plays for us at our Musical Coffee Morning and other community events. What a great testament to the power of music!

Musically we've ranged widely over the years – from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* (relocated to Balmaha Pier on a Spring Bank Holiday), through many of the greats of the classical repertoire, to contemporary



It was great to be back in Killearn (where I grew up) in my role as a Radio 3 producer interviewing a few familiar faces for an Adopt-a-Composer feature for Radio 3.

I spoke to Joyce Begg, one of the longest-standing members of the choir and a writer by day. I've always felt she had a latent talent as a comedian, too. She told me about the words used in the music for 'a quiet life' which were culled from poems she had written for various choir parties over the years. Comedy moments such as ladies outfits that resembled red gingham tablecloths feature in the lyrics, which are a jumble of memories and snatched thoughts from a musical community over 40 years. Aran Browning, the young composer, was enthusiastic and upbeat about the possibilities and impossibilities of the human voice he discovered when writing for a choir for the first time. The conductor and experienced choir master Mark Evans described his 'motley crew' of a choir with warmth, humour and considerable respect for their commitment as they worked together in rehearsals, stretching ideas of what they could achieve. Having spoken to people involved in the project,

I could feel how much this village community means to everyone, and the performance of this piece was unique and very touching.

LINDSAY PELL



composers like Morten Lauridsen, Howard Goodall, and Ola Gjeilo. We've sung in village halls, marquees and Glasgow Cathedral, toured in Yorkshire and worked with some of the finest professional singers in the country. The Archive page on our website is worth exploring, not least for the sight of Joyce and Jenny in their G&S finery.

Our current Music Director, Mark Evans, has been guiding our endeavours for the last decade with passion and imagination. Mark is also Course Director of Music at Douglas Academy, and his talented pupils often add a fresh dimension to our concerts.

We are always on the lookout for new members, especially (the cry of amateur choirs everywhere) men! We rehearse on Monday evenings in Balfroon Church from September to March, and perform at least two concerts a year. We also perform at a number of events such as the Balmaha Braw Weekend and have ventured further afield with last year's Yorkshire trip. A visit to Strathpeffer and Inverness is planned for 2018. Our term starts on Monday, 4 September, in Balfroon Church at 7.30pm, and you will be most welcome to join us. At the rehearsal interval, Mark will give you a brief audition to confirm your voice part and range.

Visit www.strathendricksingers.org.uk for more information or you can contact our Chair, Colin Cameron (media@strathendricksingers.org.uk; 07850 743143 or 01360 440622); or our Secretary, Judith Neil (secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk, 01360 550832).

Police Report

PC Steven Graham and PC Scott Craigie are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area. They are based at Balfroon Police Office, and can be contacted at the office on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. They regularly publish information and appeals online. The local Twitter feed can be found at [@StirlingPol](https://twitter.com/StirlingPol), and on Facebook at 'Forth Valley Police Division'.

Antisocial Behaviour: A small number of incidents of this nature have been reported, however these have generally been of a minor nature and have been dealt with accordingly.

Theft: There have been very few thefts since the last issue. We would still encourage residents to report any suspicious activity, no matter how insignificant it may seem. If anyone would like crime prevention advice, please contact PC Graham or PC Craigie.

Road Safety: Static speed checks have been carried out by local officers and enforcement action has been taken where applicable.

Complaints continue to be received about vehicles parked on double yellow lines on Main Street. Stirling Council have now taken over the management of this and we would advise that you contact them regarding these issues.

The issues regarding parking around Killearn Primary School continue, including people parking over residential driveways and on the zigzag markings. Parking across someone's driveway would be dealt with as an obstruction by police, however it is more likely that you will be faced with an understandably upset resident when you return to your vehicle.

Parking on zigzag markings is still dealt with by the police. Recently, following someone being charged with

parking on the zigzags, a tweet was released by police, urging others to take heed. This tweet was picked up in a number of others, including one pressure group in Edinburgh. Obviously this type of behaviour causes a lot of ill feeling within communities. The zigzags are there for the safety of your children as they arrive or leave school, so when attending the school, please leave enough time to park safely – or walk to school if you can.

Community Engagement and Reassurance: As well as regular high visibility patrols in the area, PC Graham and PC Craigie attempt to regularly visit Killearn to carry out road safety duties, including speed enforcement, assisting with local community issues and visiting community partners within the Killearn area. These visits are backed up by our colleagues within Balfroon Police Office, who regularly carry out routine patrols within the area.

Scams: In recent months, members of the public have fallen victim of various types of scams, ranging from telephone calls to letters and pop-up messages on computer screens. Some of the scams have purported to be from banks, law enforcement agencies or government agencies, and have made requests for money to be paid to avoid the recipient being arrested or fined. Many of these scams have requested payment in the form of various vouchers or gift cards that can be purchased in most shops.

Please be vigilant if you experience any kind of contact from organisations asking for payment of this kind. No government or law enforcement agency will ask for payment of fines or debts in the form of such vouchers or gift cards. If you are in doubt, contact the organisation using the telephone number found on official documentation, in a phone book or via a directory enquiries service for advice.

Crimestoppers: You Really Can Help

Can you imagine being in a position where you are at personal risk if you report a crime? Surely that only happens elsewhere, or on TV crime dramas. Unfortunately, it's more common than you might like to think. This is why Crimestoppers UK was founded by Lord Ashcroft and launched in the London Metropolitan Police area in 1988. Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crimes, making communities safer.

Crimestoppers Scotland is now urging residents in Stirling's local communities to contact the charity anonymously about crime concerns. The Stirling campaign was launched in April to highlight the difference a call to Crimestoppers can make to people living in areas where crime can be a problem and people may not want to give information to Police or other

law enforcement agencies.

In 2015/16, Crimestoppers Scotland passed on 10,000 public calls to Police Scotland and other authorities. This meant that 477 criminals were arrested and charged, knives, ammunition and 35 guns were removed, and £605,692 in the value of street drugs seized.

Crimestoppers does this by operating a 24/7 telephone number (0800 555 111) which people can ring to pass on information about crimes anonymously. They can also use the 'giving information' form via their website crimestoppers-uk.org.

The charity also runs a youth programme which provides a safe online site to give information about crime anonymously (fearless.org).

Contacting Crimestoppers really does make a difference.

New Members Welcome



The photograph shows some recent additions to the attraction of playing golf at Buchanan Castle. It was taken at the iconic 8th hole by Ronnie Myles, the manager of the course.

Unfortunately these new additions will be moving on, but the good news is that we have recruited over 60 new members to our club in the year to June and we are working to attract another 40 in 2017 as part of our development plans for our club and course.

So why not come along and see what is happening at Buchanan Castle?

We are friendly and we welcome all visitors, whether it is for a look around, an enjoyable round on our parkland course or for applications for membership across all categories (seniors, male, female, family, youth).

We also have great practice and beginner's facilities with a nine-hole academy course – all at reasonable rates.

If you are interested and you want to extend your summer come and join us.

For more information telephone our Pro Shop (01360 660330) or email us at www.buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk.



Come and see why Buchanan castle is a special place – we guarantee there are more mornings like this to come!

A nurturing environment for our children provided by Heron House



With a Nurturing and Learning Environment, we provide "our" children with positive learning experiences and opportunities from the very minute they arrive. Our fees are competitive and our staff are loving and experienced. We drop off and collect pre-school children from Killearn Nursery Class. Our nursery has an Out of School facility for attendees only, as places are at a premium!

Some other info. Our 3-5 children leaving us to go to

school chose their own summer trip to the Safari Park and our Graduation Day was celebrated with a Teddy Bears Picnic. We have been at Mugdock Country Park, Kilmardinny Park and various trip and outings in our local environment. Even our youngest babies are out in the fresh air exploring.

Our indoor area has seen some changes over the last few months and is now a more natural inviting space to encourage plenty of open-ended play and self-

directed learning with a range of inviting materials.

Come along, visit us and discover more of what we do with our little people, who are happy, loved and thriving. Our beautiful nursery sits adjacent to Killearn Glen with ample private parking. The large secure garden has a Bark Kitchen, children's allotment and a hard surface for trikes and bikes.

Fiona or Gabi are happy to chat to you, we look forward to your visit.

Beech Drive, Killearn G63 9SD t: 01360 550 162 e: heronhousekillearn@gmail.com

959 Crookston Road, Glasgow G53 7DT t: 0141 810 5777 e: heronhousecrookston@gmail.com



HERON HOUSE
EARLY YEARS

Beech Drive, Killearn G63 9SD

t: 01360 550 162

e: heronhousekillearn@gmail.com

959 Crookston Road, Glasgow G53 7DT

t: 0141 810 5777

e: heronhousecrookston@gmail.com

**OSC
PLACES
FOR HHK PREVIOUS
ATTENDEES ONLY**

- Baby places available
- Beautifully Situated
- Term Time Places Available
- CHIME, Gym and Music Classes
- Local Authority Funding (3-5) available
- Outdoor" Bark Kitchen"& planting & growing
- Regular Trips and outings
- Out of School Care for HHK attendees only
- Holiday cover for 5-12 year olds
- Qualified passionate team

The Garden in Summer and a Little Equine Trouble

Having spent a fair amount of time looking at the back end of a horse recently when helping in carriage driving events (my wife's new hobby), I was reminded that I should address the increasing problem I have in the garden with horsetail (*Equisteum arvense*). Botanically it is one of the oldest plants on Earth, with ancestors going back about 300 million years, and I had been wondering how to get rid of it. A bit of experimentation over the last few years and a bit of googling have given me some ideas.

Non-chemical controls: Removing horsetail by hand is difficult. The rhizomes can reach down two metres, so shallow occasional weeding is not very effective and can even make the problem worse because the plant can regrow from any small pieces left behind. Rhizomes growing near the surface can be forked out, but deeper roots will require a lot of excavation. This might seem excessive, but if you find it in a very limited area, complete removal of all the soil might be the best option before it spreads. However, removing shoots as soon as they appear above the ground can reduce infestation if carried out over a number of years. If horsetail appears in lawns, it can be kept in check by mowing regularly. Do not put the clippings on your compost heap.

Chemical controls: Horsetail stems are waxy, making them repellent to chemicals, but despite that, infestations can be weakened. Tough weedkillers containing glyphosate can be applied on soil or paths where there are no plants in mid and late summer when growth is strong. Before using, bruise the shoots with a rake to ensure effective penetration. Adding a touch of washing-up liquid to the spray might help the chemical penetrate the stems.

There is a product called Kurtail designed specifically to get rid of horsetail. We haven't tested it ourselves and, although expensive, it might be worth trying. Keep in mind that horsetail is persistent and several applications – possibly over a number of years – may be necessary to completely eradicate the problem.

Meanwhile, as they say on a well-known gardening programme, here are a few jobs that you can also be getting on with:

- Despite rain, keep watering plants in pots and hanging baskets; these plants also need regular feeding – to keep annuals looking good they should be regularly deadheaded and fed with a high potash fertilizer, for example tomato feed
- Prune off suckers from fruit trees and roses
- Make sure vegetables get a consistent, regular supply of water; irregular watering can lead to problems with blossom end rot in tomatoes, splitting of root vegetables and flower abortion in runner beans; help prevent this by watering well during dry spells
- Mid to late August is a good time to apply biological controls for vine weevil; grubs will be starting to hatch and soil temperatures are now suitable for the nematodes to be effective; target vulnerable plants such as rhododendron, camellia and containerised plants, including fuchsias
- Black spot on roses is very common at this time of year and spraying will no longer be effective; clear fallen leaves and burn them to prevent spread.

Make sure you reap the rewards of your hard labour earlier in the year by harvesting any fruit and veg, and don't forget to simply enjoy your garden.

GRAHAM SCOTT, BENVIEW GARDEN CENTRE

BenView
Garden Centre & Cafe

Pick your own produce in the summer time!

Benview Garden Centre
Café, Farm shop & pet store

Ward Toll,
Balfon Station G63 0QZ
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk
T: 01360 850525
E: info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk

Strathendrick
Decorating
Plastering &
Joinery

John Gault m: 07748 283947
Allan Denton m: 07984 549933
Joe McLaren m: 07980 983995
Email: strathdo@hotmail.com

Interior, Exterior Paint Work.
Ames Taping. Coving and all
types of Plasterwork. Joinery.

OLDHALL
SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY
COTTAGES

Too many weekend guests?
Planning a wedding or a party?
WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOU!

info@oldhallcottages.net
01360 440 136
www.oldhallcottages.net

Killearn's Contribution to The Great War 1914–18 Part 2: 1915

The local papers indicate that 1915 in Killearn started with the village routine little affected by the war. The 760-acre Boquhan estate was put up for sale, the Miniature Rifle Club held its usual New Year's Day shoot, there was a New Year Concert attended by Belgian refugees and Mary Ponton of Croy Cunninghame married Peter Downie of Whiting Bay at Croy Cunninghame.

However, war was not far away and in January, Capt. Norman Orr-Ewing, son of Sir Archibald and Lady Orr-Ewing, formerly of Ballikinrain, was wounded in the leg at the front. In December 1914, he had received the DSO for efforts to rally the battalion after heavy losses. The January newspapers carried the first-ever instructions on precautions to be taken in the event of an air raid.

In February a new Roll of Honour added 13 more enlisted men:

David Borthwick – Black Watch
James Graham – Army Service Corps.
Daniel Haggart – Motor Transport, A.S.C.
Alexander Laws – Motor Transport
James Love – Black Watch
William Marshall – A. and S.H.
Alan W. Miller, 2nd Lieut. – R.F.R.E. (T.F.)
Kenneth S. Miller, 2nd Lieut. – 3rd Scottish Rifles
Thomas Ponton – Royal Field Artillery
David Russell – Motor Transport
Graham Shand, 2nd Lieut. – Black Watch
Archibald Guthrie Smith – Army Veterinary Corps.
Herbert Sportan – A. and S. H.

Killearn had now contributed 34 volunteers to the armed forces. In addition, Barbara Sanderson, daughter of the Free Church Minister, was serving as a nurse in Birmingham Military Hospital.

Killearn residents were making efforts to help refugees whose homes had been affected by the war. A meeting was held in April to consider what further war work could be undertaken by the women of the parish. Over the course of the autumn and winter, while the ordinary Guild meetings had carried on, the Guild and the Junior Guild donated a total of 1,199 garments and 195 bandages to relief organisations.

Five Belgian families were also being supported. Mrs A. Guthrie-Smith read a paper describing the desolation in Belgium, Montenegro, Serbia and Poland, which she contrasted with Britain: 'We have lived secure in our little island, guarded by our Navy. We have been warm all winter, we have been well fed, we have been comfortable in our own homes.' She urged the provision of help for 'our little sorely-suffering sister nations.'

In response, it was arranged that volunteer collectors would make monthly door-to-door collections throughout the parish with the proceeds devoted to work for the sufferers from the war. Collections amounted to £11 5s in June, £11 17s in July, £13 8s 6d in August and £18 3s 6d in October.

It was also agreed to make garments for Serbia. Achnagowan was made available for work every Thursday afternoon with members of the committee there to say what was needed and receive finished work.

In early May, a 'white elephant' sale was held in the Killearn Hall in aid of the Serbian Hospital Fund. A large collection of articles of many kinds, together with sewn and knitted work, was available for sale and tea was served. The sale raised the surprisingly large sum of £101 13s 6d (about £8,000 today).

In June, the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross Society in Glasgow announced that its stores were depleted, with the need becoming greater by the day while supplies were dwindling. Killearn residents responded by forming the Killearn War Work Party and organising a work day on 3 July to make bandages and absorbent dressings for the wounded. The Hall was open from 10.30am until dark, and men, women and children over 12 were asked to help for as long as they could.

The work consisted of making, filling, sewing up and packing bags filled with pine sawdust and sphagnum moss. Women were asked to bring sewing machines and men to collect moss. They made 1,396 bags of sphagnum moss, 616 bags of sawdust, 260 roller bandages and 46 swab dressings. It was reported that more bags of moss could have been prepared had there been more moss ready and people were urged to gather, clean and dry as much moss as possible for the next work day. The following week, a full-day women's meeting was held in the hall to make nightshirts for hospitals – 70 were completed and sent.

On 15 July, a party of wounded soldiers from Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, were driven in cars to Killearn and entertained to tea by Mrs N.P. Donaldson of Lettre Cottage. They had been in the fighting in France where one had been gassed, some had shrapnel wounds and others had injured limbs. Most were well on the way to recovery and took part in the games and amusements provided.

That same July, the National Registration Act 1915 came into force. This Act required everyone between the ages of 15 and 65 not already in the armed forces to complete a registration form giving details including age, marital status, occupation and other skills and was intended to ascertain the human resources available to the country to support the war effort.

In early August, the Parish Council had accepted the responsibility of enumeration. The parish was divided into nine districts and eight volunteer enumerators, one taking the entire village, delivered and collected the forms. In the parish, 580 people were registered and issued with cards. The details of 118 men between 18 and 40 who were considered potential recruits, were copied onto special pink forms. The pink forms, which were passed to local recruitment offices, were contentious as

it was thought they would be used if conscription was introduced.

At the end of July, a third all-day meeting was held in the Parish Hall by the Killearn War Work Party. They worked from 10.30am to about 7pm in which time 3,081 absorbent dressings were completed for the Red Cross Society.

Despite the war, Killearn Agricultural Society held their annual show on 6 August. A Free Gift Sale conducted by Mr James N. Paul was held in aid of the War Funds and raised almost £35. At the later Society meeting, the successful exhibitors contributed 10 per cent of their prize money to the fund, with several donating all their winnings. The sum of £50 was raised and handed over to the Red Cross Society to endow a bed, to be known as the 'Killearn Agricultural Society's Bed', in one of the hospitals.

In August another Work Party meeting made 870 bags and filled them with sawdust for absorbent dressings for the wounded. In addition 59 invalid soldiers' bags, and 200 fly veils and mosquito nets were made and all were sent to the Red Cross.

In September, Robert Aitken Carr, who had joined the Gordon Highlanders in April, was reported missing in action. It was later confirmed that he had died in the field, but his body was never recovered. He is commemorated on our War Memorial and the family grave in Killearn cemetery.



Gravestone of Robert Aitken Carr

The outcome of September's Work Party efforts was a total of 977 new and used garments which were dispatched to the Belgians and Serbians.

In October, two men with local connections were reported wounded. James Shaw, whose family lived in Blane Bridge Cottage, suffered wounds to wrist, arm and heel and was evacuated to a hospital in England. Major Norman Archibald Orr-Ewing, DSO, was wounded for the second time.

On Saturday, 23 October, a Scotland-wide special effort was made in aid of Red Cross Society funds. The Killearn War Work Party were anxious to play their part and to send in good contributions in money and kind.

The October Parish Collection of £18 3s 6d was passed directly to the Red Cross Society. There was a cake and candy sale and a pound sale in the hall, together with a table to receive any gifts of comforts for the troops, such as pipes, tobacco, cigarettes, mufflers, mitts,



John Sanderson – killed in action

walking-sticks, etc. In this collection, £23 11s 3d in cash was received, the sale raised £46 5s 5d and the gifts of comfort were valued at £25 14s 5d, giving a total raised of £114 4s 7d.

The War Work Party contributed 46 shirts, 30 nightshirts, 2 flannel nightshirts, 40 pairs socks and 14 pairs of hospital slippers.

In December, £31 was collected in the village to send 'Jocks' Boxes' as Christmas presents to all those serving from Killearn – 72 enlisted men, of whom 40 were at the front in France, the Dardanelles or Serbia.

During 1915, Killearn residents had contributed over 6,000 absorbent dressings, 500 bandages, 2,600 items of clothing and £364 (about £29,000 today) to the war effort.

The year ended on a solemn note when it was learned that John Sanderson (*pictured above*), son of the minister of the Free Church, had been killed in action on 12 December. A memorial service was held in the Free Church and Dr Gordon Mitchell gave an address in the Parish Church during the service on the following Sunday.

The number of fatalities of men with Killearn connections had now risen to three.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

Guide to a Successful University Open Day Visit

With Higher exams finally over, many students are now embarking on the next daunting stage of the educational journey: applying to university. The first thing to consider is which of more than 130 universities and colleges across the UK to apply to. What degrees are offered and where? What about the course? The atmosphere of the surrounding location? Accommodation options? This can involve many hours of internet browsing, but a more informative, interesting and better way is to visit the Open Days offered by the institutions. With the season approaching, here's a guide on how to use such events to your best advantage.

Registering: Pre-booking is a requirement for many universities so, checking websites is highly advisable. Although some institutions may allow you to wander in as you please, don't let this catch you out. Individual events may require booking and are liable to fill up. Trust me on this.

Making a Timetable: Before visiting any university Open Day, I would highly recommend making a timetable of the events you wish to go to, many of which will repeat. A map can also come in very handy. Don't pack your day with too many events – as much as you may believe you'll be able to get to the other side of campus with no time in between, you won't. I tried and I failed. Strictly ration what you go to, or face the prospect of just coming back again for the next Open Day.

Travel: Open Days are busy events, when you consider that many hundreds, if not thousands, of prospective students are descending on one relatively small place. Travel can be a problem – streets are packed and traffic slow moving, with parking near impossible. I recommend train, bus, or park and ride, if it's provided. (Did I mention a map?)

The Open Day: On arrival, it's good to locate the entrance stand where you can find a university prospectus, information on funding and accommodation and, crucially, the sought-after 'university bag' that you can proudly carry around all day. Going to the talk on your subject focuses your attention on what you are applying for. Many universities also have subject stalls where current students and lecturers can answer specific questions and hand out subject leaflets. If you are interested in university accommodation such as halls, tours may also be available (if not, the university may also have an Accommodation Open Day).

Student Helpers: They are incredibly eager to help, verging on the insistent in their attempts to assist you. This does make you feel much more comfortable and helps to make sure all questions are answered. I would highly recommend preparing some questions in advance so you're not left in the awkward position of desperately trying to think one up after

JOHN CURRIE

BRICK AND STONEMWORK

STONEWORK AND PAVING SPECIALIST

STONE WALLING & TRADITIONAL BRICKWORK
NATURAL INDIAN & YORK STONE PAVING SPECIALIST
BARN & PROPERTY RENOVATION
BESPOKE FEATURES
DRY STONE WALLING
LIME MORTAR WORK & REPOINTING
STEPS & PATHS
PATIOS & SLABBING
FIREPLACES
GENERAL BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**CALL TODAY FOR FREE
ADVICE & QUOTATION**

TEL: 01360 440893
MOBILE: 07966 864811
EMAIL: johncurrie@hotmail.com



BAXTER
Accounting & Tax Services



Chartered
Tax Adviser

*For all the accounting and tax needs of
you and your business*

Please note we are now located at
12 Southview Road, Blanefield

*Feel free to call, email or pop in to see
if we can help*

01360 770320
www.baxtertax.co.uk
enquiries@baxtertax.co.uk

having been approached. I must also warn you that this will continue all day, so you may end up asking the same questions multiple times (this is especially true if you are touring accommodation and are really trying to work out which room is larger or which building has the least 1960s look about it).

I wish you all the best in finding the right university for you. I hope this guide is of some use and that you enjoy what can be a hectic, but also exciting, day.

KAY MACKENZIE

From the Archive: Killearn to Italy via Africa

Andrew McAllister was a Killearn man who died serving in World War I, but is not on the village war memorial. Andrew was born in Killearn in 1868, the eldest child of William and Margaret McAllister. In 1881, the family were living at Easter Cottage, Ballikinrain, where his father was the joiner on the estate. Around 1888, the McAllister family moved to Chartershall, St Ninians, in Stirling, where William set up a business of his own as a joiner and wheelwright.

Although Andrew initially trained as a joiner, he enrolled at Glasgow University in 1887 at the age of 19 to study Latin and mathematics. He also studied Greek and logic and moral philosophy, English literature and mathematics and, in his final year, natural philosophy.

In the 1891 Census, he was a student lodger in Cromwell Street in Barony Parish in Glasgow.

After leaving university in 1891, he went to West Africa as a working missionary. He was employed by the British government and latterly served as Director of Public Works in Old Calabar in southeastern Nigeria, where he was involved in the construction of a large drainage system. He was in charge of a large native population, for which he

had some experience, as he had previously acted as an instructor in handicrafts, presumably involving his joinery experience. On leaving this job he received the thanks of Joseph Chamberlain, then Colonial Secretary, for services rendered.

While serving in Africa, he married Lillias Gilliespie on 5 June 1895. She was a milliner and was born in 1876 in St Ninians, the second daughter of John Gilliespie of Culthove Farm, which is next door to Chartershall. They had a son, Tom, and a daughter.

In 1908, he retired on a pension and settled on Wend Love Farm at Lalapanzi in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). This was a 3,000-acre mixed farm on which he broke most of the land himself. When the war started, despite being 47, he sold his livestock, let his agricultural land and returned to Britain in 1915, leaving his wife and daughter on the farm. He was immediately given a commission as Captain in the Royal Engineers, Lines of Communication Branch. His son, who had been studying engineering in South Africa, also enlisted. He served in the Rhodesian Field Force against the Germans in East Africa.

Captain McAllister spent 18 months in France, where he went



Andrew McAllister

through the Somme campaign. In February 1917, he was despatched with his company to Italy to help in operations against the Austrians. In August 1917, he became ill and died from peritonitis on 29 August. He is buried in Italy among the Commonwealth war graves in the Taranto Town Cemetery.

Although Andrew McAllister is not on the Killearn War Memorial, he is not forgotten in Stirlingshire. His younger brother, John, who took over the joinery business, arranged for his name to be included on the Stirling War Memorial.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

40 Years in Show Business

Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society (FADS) celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2017, and once again we have brought some well-earned trophies back to Fintry. We are happy to recognise that the majority of our members hail from the surrounding villages here in the Stirling area.

We would particularly mention the enormous part played over the years by the late Ken Barrett, who helped raise the standard of our productions – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Steamie*, and *Oh! What A Lovely War* to name but a few.

At Christmas, our pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Alan McHugh was a big success, with strong support from Killearn members – Ian Howie as the dame, Kirsty McArthur and Sophie Howie as principal boy and girl.

The Club produced two one-act plays for the spring season – *Pushcart Pedlars* which won the Stirling round

of the SCDA Festival, and *Bonking James Bond* which won the East Kilbride Festival (*Pushcart Pedlars* was runner up). Each of our leads, Jack Doyle and Jackie Smith, won awards for Best Actor and Best Actress. The club was honoured to receive an invitation to take both plays to Orkney, where each was performed twice to enthusiastic audiences.

The Club is currently busy selecting plays – and players – for future productions. Whether it is on the stage or behind the scenes, successful productions are all about teamwork. Anyone looking for a fun hobby will be made very welcome.

Find our FADS page on Facebook, or visit fintrydrama.org where you can read about all our past productions.

HELEN WATSON, SECRETARY

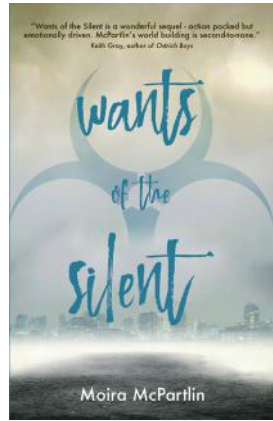
New Novel by Killlearn Author

In 2015 *Ways of the Doomed* by Moira McPartlin was reviewed by *Courier* Cub reporter Rosalie Williamson.

Now *Wants of the Silent*, Moira's second instalment in the *Sun Song Trilogy*, has been published. The trilogy is set in 2089 in a world divided and broken, but still recognisable as our own. It follows Sorlie into the floodlands of Lesser Esperaneo, where resources are scarce and climate change has taken its toll. There he finds a strange community living in a radioactive wasteland where old people and specials are hidden from the State. But this is not the only secret the community holds. Sorlie hears whisperings of a great saviour, The Prince. In his quest for the saviour's identity, Sorlie returns to the scene of his earlier exploits, the prison island Black Rock.

Although *Wants of the Silent* is set in the future, the novel explores many themes present in today's society including climate change, refugees, genetics and the rise of polarised politics.

The novel can be enjoyed by adults, young and old, and is a great read for book groups. Moira has kindly offered to come along and join in the debate if your book group chooses any of her novels to discuss. You can contact her at moira.mcpartlin@gmail.com.



Cup Success for Local Rugby Talent



Playing for Glasgow Hawks Under18s, two of Killlearn's brightest young rugby talent – Matt Pettigrew and Euan Brown (*pictured above*) – both made major contributions throughout the season, culminating in a successful defence of the West Under 18 Shield competition, beating a strong Greenock Wanderers side 42–12 at Fort Matilda on a near perfect day for rugby.

Matt and Euan both played for Balforn High and hope to further their rugby careers next season with Glasgow Hawks. Euan will also be upping his skill set via a spell with Canterbury Crusaders High Performance Unit in Christchurch, New Zealand.



Lomond School
Helensburgh

Open Morning

30 September 2017

The Principal, Johanna Urquhart, would like to invite you and your family to join us at our Open Morning on **Saturday, 30 September from 10am - 1pm.**

Financial assistance and academic scholarships available. Please confirm your attendance by emailing: admissions@lomondschool.com or alternatively call us on 01436 672 476.

A school bus travels between Killlearn and Lomond School

lomondschool.com

Strathendrick and Balfron Rugby: Flying High

The 2016–17 season was an outstandingly successful one for both Strathendrick Rugby Club and Balfron High School Rugby at all age groups – and so the Club and players are looking forward to the new season with anticipation and excitement.

The Strathendrick 1st XV won their league last year and return to play in BT West Division 2 after only one season's absence. The Club also won the BT West Regional Bowl. Training is now well underway for the new season (Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Fintry Sports Club) and with plans to run a 2nd XV this year, new players are most welcome. Contact Nick Hawkins (07860 700928) for details.

Balfron High School and SRFC Midis play as combined squads, and this year the school will be in the Barbarian Conference running five separate boys' teams: S1, S2, U15, U16 and U18. This will require huge commitment from players, coaches and parents alike, but



Champions Strathendrick celebrate their league success

it demonstrates the progress made in recent years. The school also runs two girls' teams that hope to build on last season's success.

The U18s Boys and Girls will be touring to Italy in October – a highlight in the young players' rugby experiences. The younger age groups toured to Pau in France and Islay in the spring of this year.

The Minis (primary school age range) are also doing well, led by a great group of coaches who organise training, matches, tag rugby, visits to internationals and social events. New members are always welcome; please contact Iain Somerville (07879 607202) for details.

For more information visit:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc.

360  **PROPERTY SERVICES**

Tel: Andy 07748 754 583
Billy 07795 824 709

info@360propertyservices.co.uk

Electrical

- Re-wires & up-grades
- Landlord certificates
- Garden lighting & power
- LED lighting up-grades
- Inspection & testing
- Mains smoke/heat/ Carbon monoxide detection

Internal

- Kitchen up-grades
- Bathroom up-grades
- Plaster skimming
- Flooring
- Painting & decorating
- Plumbing up-grades

Roof Line

- Roof cleans & moss removal
- Gutter cleaning
- Replacement guttering
- UPVC fascia and soffit up-grades

Grounds

- Decking & Patios
- Slabbing & Pathways
- Fencing
- General maintenance

Trade references available for all aspects of work.

Killearn's 10k Firsts

In the spring *Courier*, we challenged you to sign up for the Killearn 10k, and many local people did just that. For some it was their first, but for those who had run the 10k before, the focus was on building in some 'first time' challenges to keep training interesting.

Building new challenges into goal planning is a good way of keeping behaviour change on track. Routine is important but, frankly, it can become repetitive and boring. To keep it fun, you could make your routine the days you exercise, but mix it up by changing the type of exercise you do or, for the runners among you, by changing the routes you take.

For Alice Silverwood, co-owner of The Old Mill, the main sponsor of this year's 10k, the 'first time' challenge was a simple one. After missing out on one of the coveted start line spots in 2016, Alice was determined to get herself a race number. 'Since we took over The Old Mill, I've watched the 10k and it always looks great fun. I was determined I was getting a place this year.' Indeed, Alice was so looking forward to running alongside her loyal Killearn customers that she threatened to 'boot out anyone who looked like they might be staying too late the night before!' However, running alongside (or was it beating?) the Killearn Football Club runners wasn't Alice's only motivation.

She had built another couple of 'firsts' in her training plan: 'straight after the 10k I will be jumping in the Endrick then off to The Old Mill for Killearn Beer Festival; looking forward to my "first" post-race pint!'

Long-time runner Louise Nuttall built an important 'first' challenge into her 10k training. Knowing how important it is to plan phased milestones into any training, Louise decided to sign up for the first-ever Great Stirling 5k. 'I've been running 10ks for years, but I've never taken part in a shorter distance race. Signing up for the first Stirling 5k was great way of staying focused on improving my speed before the Killearn 10k.'

Nick Hawkins, Keith Kemsley and Kerri McPherson had two 'first time' challenges to keep them focused on their 10k training. In April, they took part in their first Highland Fling 53-Mile Ultra Marathon, each running a section of the four-leg relay from Milngavie to



l-r: Nick Hawkins, Keith Kemsley and Kerri McPherson

Tyndrum. Then in May, they ran their first marathon by completing the first Stirling Scottish Marathon, alongside Liz McColgan and Zola Budd (along with a few other Killearnites). Nick was delighted with his 'first time' challenges. 'At the tender age of 60, I never imagined I would be running in the Fling or completing my first – and only – marathon, but encouraged by my training chums [and meeting one modest goal after another, almost anything seems possible!'

Of course, being part of the Killearn 10k was the highlight of everyone's running year. But it just goes to show, even if you're not first across the finish line, it doesn't mean you can't complete a few of your own 'firsts' along the way.

KERRI MCPHERSON



BODY CONTROL PILATES® CLASSES

Body Control Pilates® transforms the way you use your body, using slow, controlled movement to improve posture, tone and general wellbeing.

Small class sizes allow for individual tuition, making Body Control Pilates® a benchmark for safe and effective teaching of the world-famous Method.

For details of daytime and evening classes in Gartocharn and Blanefield, call Jane Meek on 01360 771742/07759182236 or e-mail janemfr@tiscali.co.uk

Body Control Pilates and the Body Control Pilates logo are registered Trade Marks used under licence.

Krebbel Ltd.

Architecture and Design



t: 07517 605 524
e: krebbel.architecture@gmail.com
w: www.facebook.com/krebbel

Killearn 10k Race Report

Saturday, 3 June, was an exciting day for runners and supporters of the annual Killearn 10k and Killearn Mile. The day began with an early start for set up in the park before attention turned to registration in Killearn Primary School. At 9am the team of marshals collected their packs and headed off to take up their place along the routes.

The 124 Mile runners, joggers and walkers mustered at the start line for a 10am 'ready, steady, go' and go they did. Although there was a bit of puffing and panting, it was the giggles and cheers that told the real story – it was fun! As the participants crossed the finish line in the park, each received a well-earned medal. The Mile was again hosted jointly by the 10k Committee and Alison Grey of Active Stirling, and we had more participants this year than ever before.

Starter's orders were 11am for the 204 10k runners, and they made an impressive sight at the start line between the Buchanan Monument and War Memorial. Taking the same route as previous years, the runners headed down Main Street before turning up onto the pipe track. As a trail race, the 10k terrain is challenging underfoot. However, as runners headed back towards the village attention was often diverted away from their feet to the spectacular scenery across Killearn and up to the loch. The water station at the foot of Dumgoyne was, as always, a welcome source of hydration and a big thank you goes to Stevie Crawford and his merry band who stepped in to cover Tim Brown's usual spot. After crossing the finish line in the park, runners and marshals were treated to delicious soup and a brownie provided by Elsie MacDonald.

It was another scorcher this year but, keeping his cool, Garry Mathew was first to cross the finish line in 35 minutes and 37 seconds. Hot on his heels was Crispin Walsh and then, in 38 minutes and 6 seconds, Matt Williamson claimed third place and first G63 male. First women, Edel Mooney, crossed the line in 41 minutes and 1 second, setting a new female course record and claiming first G63 female. New club prizes were introduced this year and these were awarded to Bellahouston Harriers (male club prize) and Giffnock North AC (female club prize). The Killearn Football Club fielded a 10-man team and Simon Sweeney was the first black-and-white shirt to finish, in 40 minutes and 29 seconds.



Every finishing runner was rewarded with a bespoke medal, a technical running top and a host of other post-race goodies. Category winners collected individual prizes generously provided by sponsors and the Killearn 10k Committee. This year the 10k main sponsor was The Old Mill, and runners extend their thanks to them and the other local businesses and organisations who supported the event: Glengoyne Distillery, The Co-op, RUN4IT, Barrs, Three Sisters Bake, Art4You, Lumsdaine Halls Therapy Rooms, Tunnocks, The Killearn Trust, Active Stirling, The Burnbrae, Bearsden, The Yoga Place and Hewitt & Aker.

The 10k is a local event and every year we rely on the support of our marshals and volunteers. A huge thank you goes to them all for helping us deliver another enjoyable, friendly and safe Killearn 10k.

KERRI MCPHERSON

BLANEVALLEY
CONSTRUCTION

Building • Landscaping
Kitchens • Bathroom

Curling Sweep Up

The 2016/17 season ended with the AGM and prize-giving at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The Club has awarded honorary membership to Peter Smith, who although not curling himself, designed and maintains the website, produces the schedule booklets for both the Main Club and the Ladies Section and often acts as official photographer. The main changes to the committee are Sandy Park's appointment as President and Di Jackson's election as Secretary.

The second part of the season was significantly affected by the loss of the ice at The Peak for two weeks, resulting in a lot of rescheduling and complicated calculations to confirm results.

In the mixed club matches, the Spring League was won comfortably by Tony Flisch's team of Rosemary Miller, Sheila Sturrock, Richard Kingslake and John O'Neill. The final round of matches was not played, leaving second place undecided.

Six members of the club took part in the Province Points competition. The highest scoring member was Fiona Glass, who was awarded the Club's Points Trophy. Gill Smith was second and Sandy Park third.

Sadly, both the Beattie Points competition for all players at The Peak and the Ballikinrain Cup, which is an annual three-sided match against Balforn and Fintry,

were victims of the ice problems.

The closing bonspiel for the Harris Falconer Trophy was won by John Phillip's team of Mary MacDonald, Mike Jackson and Douglas Arthur. Mary and Douglas were also part of the winning team last year.

In the Ladies Section, the winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League, which had to be shortened to one round, was Rita Harris's team of Isabel Robertson, Anne Lang and Norma Thornton. Gill Smith's team of Muriel Holroyd, Marie Elder and reserves was second.

The Ladies finished their season with a closing bonspiel at The Peak which was won by Muriel Holroyd's team of Sheila Sturrock, Gillian Kingslake and Norma Thornton. Fiona Glass's team of Rita Harris, Elspeth Murdoch and Maureen Royston was second. Afterwards, we adjourned to the Lion and Unicorn in Thornhill for the AGM, an excellent lunch and the prize-giving. Jane McLaren was Club Curler of the Year, while Isabel Robertson was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The Club had a reasonable season in the Forth & Endrick Province competitions. They finished fourth in the Robert Paterson Shield, with one match outstanding, and in joint fourth on ends in the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl bonspiel. The Forest



Strathendrick Curling Club
President presenting the
Ladies v Gents Trophy to
John Phillips

Hills League was decided by the final matches. The Club lost to Balforn in the fifth-round match, putting them one point behind Balforn. As a result, two fourth-round matches, which had been missed with the lost ice, had to be rearranged. Strathendrick beat Port of Menteith and, aided by Buchlyvie beating Balforn, finally won the Trophy.

We are a very friendly club and enjoy a variety of social events. Our curling standards cater for all abilities, so if you are interested and want some exercise in a friendly atmosphere, contact Di Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit strathendrickcurling.org.uk.



MINERVA

01360 550801

ESTATE AGENCY & LETTINGS

FREE no Obligation Valuations & Advice

Minerva Homes Ltd, Killearn Mill, Killearn G63 9LQ

Jamie Crocket - Direct 07725 215440



KILLEARN TENNIS CLUB



Junior, Adult and Family Memberships available

Contact: info@killearntennisclub.org.uk

www.killearntennisclub.org.uk

[facebook.com/killearntennis](https://www.facebook.com/killearntennis)

[@KillearnTennis](https://twitter.com/KillearnTennis)

We have pre-schoolers and grizzled veterans in their 80s as members at Killearn Tennis Club, and this season we've offered something for all of them and everyone in between.

The club enjoyed a successful Open Day in April and a most enjoyable British Tennis Weekend event in May. Adding a barbecue and beer/wine at the latter went down very well, and may have set a trend.

Our coach, Hannah, has been busy teaching the kids, with well-attended coaching camps in June, July and August. The youngsters had lots of fun and learned loads.

For the grown-ups, we run social tennis sessions on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons where all are most welcome to come along for a game. You don't need to join first or bring a partner if you want to come and have a try – there should always be someone around to hit with.

Visitors are also very welcome, should you fancy a game among yourselves at other times. You'll find the honesty box for non-members on the front of the clubhouse. It's £5 for adults and £2 for kids.

For more competitive members or those just keen to improve, the club enters teams in the Tennis Central

Leagues and Hannah coaches adults. Rates on request.

We always enjoy welcoming new members to the club. We're lucky to have three all-weather courts where play is possible all year round (weather permitting), and membership comes with the chance to affiliate to the Lawn Tennis Association and enter our annual ballot for Wimbledon tickets.

Membership rates are very reasonable. Kids' subscriptions start at a tenner, we have discounted rates for students and the unwaged, and there are family packages on offer.

The hard work of our wonderful volunteers at Killearn Country Market, who serve teas, coffees and home baking to raise funds, helps keep those rates low. Why not pop in and see them on 23 September, 11 November and 9 December.

Grateful thanks to the Country Market volunteers and to all who give up their time to keep our friendly wee club running so well.

For more information, visit our website or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Any queries, contact David McKay (0787 638 7131; david.cuptie.mckay@gmail.com).

Killearn Football Club News

Killearn FC lost a true legend of the club recently. Donald Beaton was the heartbeat of Killearn FC for many, many years as a player, supporter, manager and president. He was a very much-loved character, committed beyond compare and known to everyone associated with the club over the last 50 years. He will be remembered fondly, not only by the people of Killearn, but across the wider football community in Scotland due to his energetic involvement in the game at a number of levels. A true genuine down-to-earth gentleman, and not a bad centre half either!

Team training started in late February in order to get the team together early and as fit as possible for the season ahead. Having access to the new community changing rooms has been a positive, not just to the Killearn players, but also those of the visiting teams and officials. After a number of years changing in local halls, it is fitting that the village once again has facilities to match its size and ambition.

On the pitch, the first few games of the season were against the strongest teams in the league and, combined with us not being completely at full strength, this saw us drop more points than we would have liked. However, with key players returning, we were looking more like the team we should be, especially in the games we played in June. This return to form has seen us climb back into the top half of the league with the aim to make the top three by the end of July.

It has been tremendous to see the attitude of the young players, and the recent win over our close rivals Blanefield was particularly pleasing.

With some of our new players now 'bedded in', we look forward to some more wins in August and September and – with a bit of luck – maybe some silverware.

Please come along and support the team if you can. Fixtures can be found on our Killearn FC Facebook page or the Co-op noticeboard.

KILLEARN FC COMMITTEE

Bridge by Zorro – solution to the problem on page 19

This simple-looking hand actually offers scope for a variety of auctions, as indeed happened at our table. The anticipated bidding was:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	All Pass

Our less conventional bidding followed this path. I also made an opening bid of 1♣ as West. My partner, ever optimistic and always favouring the strength from a distributional hand, bid 1♥ initially then, rather than 2♦, bid 2NT to which I replied with 3NT. Optimistic I know, but these are set hands, so you must expect quirks of some kind. Other typical contracts might be 1♥, 3♥, 2♣ or 3♣ depending on how cautious West is.

With a conventional lead from South of ♠2, and North playing the Queen and returning the 9, we went on to make our contract and a score of 93 per cent, despite Declarer being in the less favourable East seat. Apparently it was also possible to make an overtrick in 3NT to receive 100 per cent! (Your point score is compared to everyone else's.)

For the anticipated contract of 2♥ by East, South leads the ♦8 and Declarer typically takes three rounds, ruffing the last, and then takes a round of trump losing the King to the Ace. South returns a Club, won in Dummy, and a second round of trump goes to the 10 and Jack. Another Club is led by South, ducked in Dummy, and won by North with the Queen. A Diamond from North now might promote the ♥6 in South's hand (if actually held), but as the cards lie, East can ruff high, draw the last trump, and overtake the ♣Jack for nine tricks. Instead, if North returns a third Club, East can win with the Jack, take a round of trumps then lead a Spade, daring South to go up with the Ace thereby setting up the King.

A more stylish line of play for Declarer might be to have played Spades earlier, before taking the Diamond ruff. In this way Declarer can afford to mis-guess the first round of Spades and still make nine tricks.

(With acknowledgement to the organising committee of 6th Epsom Worldwide Bridge Contest for their notes.)

Z

Donald Beaton 1945 – 2017

Donnie Beaton was born at Ledard Farm, Kinlochard, the oldest of five children. Early in his childhood the family moved to Hillside Farm, Kilmacolm. There he attended the primary school and then Camphill High School where he excelled in English and sport. Summer months were filled by football, cricket, golf and haymaking.

When he left school, Donnie followed the family tradition of farming and, aged 20, he found work at Lettre Farm in Killearn. With the exception of a break of a few years when he became a bus

conductor, Donnie spent his working life in farming, caring for stock, mainly sheep. He was a reliable worker, committed to the wellbeing of his animals and able to turn his hand to a variety of tasks. He worked for a number of local farmers, notably Archie Campbell of Croy Cunningham, Robert Philips and Euan McKay shearing contractors and Euan Duff of Wester Auchentroig where 'Donnie's grotto' and the 'cut your own tree' became popular pre-Christmas attractions.

Through his work he became involved with the Drymen Show, served on the committee and was chairman for the last three years.

Donnie married Jean Young in 1971. It was a happy and companionable marriage, each supporting the other in their individual interests, and blessed by the addition of two sons, James and Ross.

Donnie enjoyed the social life of the village, in particular the lively evenings at the Black Bull and his membership of the darts team. His skill at football made him a popular member of the team and over the years 'the beautiful game' became his passion. For 55 years he nurtured Killearn Football Club, playing in or managing the team, or serving on the Football Club committee. When the club's former changing rooms were lost and a new facility was badly needed, Donnie was the driving force behind the building of the new changing rooms. It was due to Donnie's courteous perseverance that problems were overcome and the new facility was built in the park. It is a matter of sorrow that he did not live to see the official opening of the new Community Sports Pavilion.

His interest in football extended beyond the village. He was a lifelong Hibs supporter and was able to enjoy his team's success as Scottish Cup winners last year. He was secretary of the Forth and Endrick League for 40 years, and served on the Scottish Welfare Committee, with two periods as president. In recent years, Donnie worked for the Scottish Football Association on the non-professional board and served on the disciplinary panels.

Donnie's death came suddenly in mid May. His sometimes grizzled appearance, his head topped by a familiar beanie hat, belied his warm and caring character and his sharp intelligence. He was a popular and deeply caring member of the community and it is hard to believe that his familiar figure will not be seen again in the village.

His funeral in Killearn Kirk was attended by a huge congregation which filled the building – a testimony to the high regard and affection in which he was held by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed, first and foremost by his sons and their families, but also by very many in Killearn and beyond.

BP



Sir Arnold Clark 1927 – 2017

Sir Arnold Clark was born in the east end of Glasgow and educated at the local primary school, St. Roll. On the outbreak of World War II, he went to Arran where he completed his education. At the age of 17, he joined the RAF where he received training as a motor fitter, studied hard and became a motor mechanics instructor with the rank of Corporal.

At the end of the war, he used his demob money to buy an old Morris Ten Four, restored it and sold it for a profit. This was the prelude to his successful career in the motor trade, the first major step of which was marked 10 years later in 1954 by the opening on Park Road of his first showroom. The business went from strength to strength until the Arnold Clark name was known throughout Scotland and much of England.

In 1972, Sir Arnold and Lady Mena married and settled in Killearn, living first in Drumbeig Loan and then in 1974 moving to Crowhill House. Here they led a happy life with the family increasing over the years to six children – two sons and four daughters born of their marriage, plus four sons from his first marriage.

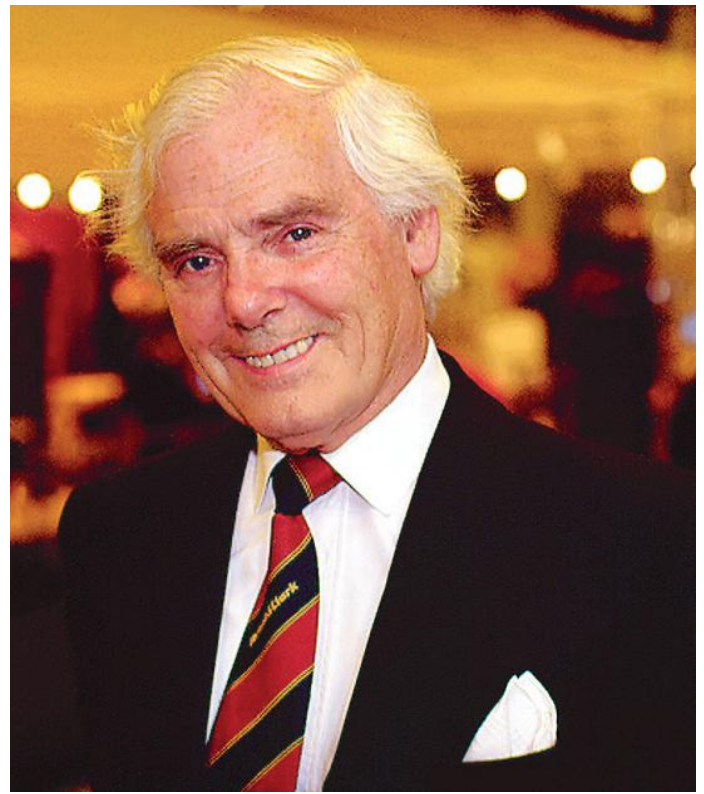
The Clark family were very much a part of village community, Arnold being a regular attender at, and Elder of, Killearn Kirk and the children belonging to various youth organisations and the tennis club. He was a great believer in supporting local shops and enterprises, and all the household grocery shopping was done in the village.

A lover of routine and tradition, on a Sunday Sir Arnold would walk with his dogs to Murray's shop to get his paper, return home and then afterwards would walk to church. Family lunch on a Sunday was a regular and immovable feast when Arnold loved having his family around him. This was often followed by a family walk, with dogs, along the Endrick and later by a family meal in the evening.

Sir Arnold had a huge capacity for work, putting in a regular 12-hour day for six days a week. His work stimulated him, encouraged him to think up new ideas and his energy enabled him to continue working well into his 80s. Although business occupied much of his time and his thoughts, the drive home to Killearn at the end of the working day was one that he relished. The miles and the unfolding views would give him a chance to unwind, and on his return to Crowhill he would routinely go into his garden and check on everything, especially his greenhouses and the progress of his geraniums, which he showed annually in the Flower Show and also took to display in the Arnold Clark showrooms.

Sir Arnold was a paternalistic employer who had the well-being of his employees at heart. He knew all his staff by name; their allegiance to him was demonstrated when his staff and their families lined the sides of Crow Road and saluted his funeral cortège as it passed by.

He never forgot his roots – he was a Glasgow boy through and through. He exemplified the value of hard work, valued education and training and encouraged



many good causes, through his company, notably by his acquisition of Glasgow Training Group, the last remaining Scottish-based training school for apprentices, which was becoming defunct. It not only offered training for the motor trade industry, but covered a whole spectrum of apprenticeship training; now known as GTG Training, it has been a great success, expanding to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Wolverhampton.

Through his membership of the Rotary Club of Glasgow, Sir Arnold was twice awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his charitable work and privately through his wide-reaching philanthropy, which in the village included his gifts to the Kirk, the church hall, the Football Club, the play park and to many other individuals and organisations that remain private.

As well as his success in business, Arnold had the energy and commitment to work at and to achieve the highest standards in all that he did. Childhood visits to Kelvingrove led later to him attending lectures at the Art Galleries and his interest in collecting paintings, but his great enthusiasm outside his work was for sailing. He started with small boats and ended with his famous ocean racing yacht *Drum*, with which he competed successfully at Cowes and in many classic on- and off-shore races, such as the Round Ireland Race. *Drum* is now often used for charitable functions.

A man of high ideals and the drive to see these realised, Arnold was awarded an Honorary degree by the University of Glasgow and received a knighthood for services to the motor industry.

He was greatly respected throughout the business world and much liked in the village he made his home.

His achievements were huge, his generosity was wide-ranging, his legacy was the example he left to all who knew and loved him, of a good life, well lived. BP

Sandra Burt 1960 – 2017



Sandra was born in Hampshire, but moved in childhood to Helensburgh and was educated at Hermitage Academy, where she was an able pupil, both academically and in sport, and with a keen interest in art. On leaving school, she worked locally at first and then at Yarrows. She met Desmond who was in the Navy at that time, and within a few years the two married. Their first home was in Surrey where Dez left the Navy and joined the Fire Service, but after a few years they moved back to Scotland and settled initially in Lenzie, where Laura and Richard were born, and then moved to Kirkintilloch. When the children were at school, Sandra was offered a post with East Dunbartonshire Council and, gaining further qualifications, progressed into management.

In 1996, they came to Killearn and here they quickly became popular members of the community and made a wide circle of friends. Working together, they transformed their house and created a beautiful garden which was open to the public in the National Garden Scheme. Sandra was a passionate gardener, winning many prizes in the Horti Show and was a founder member of Killearn Growers, growing fruit and vegetables on 'spare' land throughout the village.

Always physically very active, Sandra put her energies to benefit numbers of charities. She twice walked the West Highland Way – once up and once down – ran a 10k and twice did the Moon Walk. It was her intention to cycle a part of the John Muir Way but, although she trained for this with Dez, events prevented her taking part. Nevertheless, they raised a goodly sum for charity. She was a member of Strathendrick Curling Club, was

a part of two book clubs and played the fiddle with Get Reel. More recently she renewed her love of art and attended classes at Art4You. Her talent was at once apparent and all her work was quickly snapped up.

Sandra had a zest for living and, with a marked sense of humour, her laughter filled the lives of her family and friends. She and Dez seized opportunities and used them positively to enrich their own experience and that of those around them. For some years they fostered a child, Declan, giving him a secure family life and establishing a close relationship. Early retirement gave them a chance to travel the world extensively and they revelled in their new experiences.

Sandra was a devoted wife and a proud mother. With Dez, she encouraged her children not only to be independent and adventurous but also to study and gain qualifications. By her own life she demonstrated how events could be turned to a positive experience when courage and mental energy are harnessed to face the future. She was an inspiration to her family and to her many friends who gave back to her the same generous loyalty she had shown to them. One of her last acts was to empty her purse into the hands of a distressed and penniless neighbouring patient to enable her to return home.

On a gloriously sunny day, in the Burt's lovely garden, a service to remember Sandra was attended by many loving family members, friends and colleagues, who followed her to the Woodland Cemetery for a final farewell, full of happy memories of her life. BP

Generous residents do it again for CRUK

With a grand total of £11,320.13 in April's house-to-house collection for Cancer Research UK,



Strathendrick residents have again soared past the £10,000 target. Strathendrick Local Committee members are delighted with the result and would like to thank everyone who contributed.

They also extend their thanks to the many volunteer collectors for their time and effort.

The village totals are:

Balfron	£2,990.72	Buchlyvie	£1,024.85
Buchanan	£193.61	Croftamie	£248.31
Drymen	£1,156.23	Fintry	£1,419.17
Killearn	£2,649.29		
Strathblane/Blanefield	£1,637.95		

Grand total £11,320.13

More than £5,000 was gift aided which means an additional £1,250 for CRUK.

Later this year, on 8 October, the committee will again hold the very popular Ladies' Lunch at Culcreuch Castle in Fintry. Keep your eyes open for more details.

LESLIE KEIGHLEY

Ken Barrett 1930 – 2017



Ken, the elder of twin boys, was born and brought up in central London. Here, except for a period during the war, when he was evacuated to Norfolk, he was educated at Tollington Boys School, Muswell Hill. He proved a good student as well as outstanding at sports, ending his school career as deputy head boy, house captain and captain of several sports teams – he was even invited to play for Arsenal, an opportunity denied him by a call-up to National Service.

He did well in the army, being recommended as officer material, rose to 2nd Lieutenant and was made organiser of games nights in the Mess – perhaps his way into his theatrical interests.

On leaving the army, he gained a place at Loughborough College where he trained as a PE teacher. As head of PE at Mount Grace School in Potters Bar, he was an energetic and popular teacher, forming the former pupils football club which developed into the Potters Bar Town FC, whose members still remember their founder.

He also took a hand in the school drama productions with notable success. Importantly, here he met Jenifer, also on the teaching staff, and the pair were married in 1962. A son and two daughters were born to them and the family settled in Hertfordshire.

Ken's interest in the theatre was the prompt to his changing course. He took a sabbatical to train as a teacher of drama and with this qualification was appointed to a school with a special interest in the subject. His reputation as a teacher of drama grew and he was offered a lecturing

post at Jordanhill College of Education. He and the family came north in 1972 and settled happily in Killearn, soon becoming active in the community.

Within a year, Ken was involved in the primary school, producing his own version of *Oliver*. This was the start of his 'extramural' life in the village and the wider community, and he was eagerly welcomed into local schools and the church to create a musical production.

Ken's works were his own rewriting of well-known stories, with songs based on folk or popular tunes and a piano accompaniment. A cast of several dozen allowed as many children as possible to take part. *Oliver* was followed by *Tom Sawyer*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and his inimitable Nativity, which was regularly produced in the church. In time, the casts mixed adults with children as in *The Inn of the Eighth Happiness* and Britten's *Noyes Fludde*.

Then, with the Strathendrick Singers, Gilbert and Sullivan was updated and put into a local setting with *The Pirates of Penzance* (or Balmaha), *The Gondoliers* and *HMS Pinafore* and by now the staging, in the old Village Hall, was more ambitious and the music was provided by a small orchestra.

Ken also had considerable involvement with the Speakers Club, Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society and with the Young Farmers who, under his tutelage, went on to win numerous national drama competitions. Ken's love of the theatre and his unique teaching talent were gifts that he willingly shared with his community and it was a fitting reward when he was elected to the Guild of Drama Adjudicators. In this capacity he travelled throughout the UK, adjudicating and advising at festivals.

Ken was easy going, a modest man, never drawing attention to himself, content with a simple life and, as a regular member of the Thursday Club, enjoying games of Scrabble – which he invariably won.

He was the centre of a devoted family of Jenifer, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, of whom he was supremely proud as they were of him.

He leaves the village with happy memories of many years of entertainment and, with countless young people whose future development owed much to their experience of working with him, a debt of gratitude and affection.

An inspiration!

BP

Jamie Pearson
Independent Funeral Directors

Fintry Manse, Kippen Road, Fintry

01360 860 345

also at 2 Service Street, Lennoxtown & 54 Cowgate, Kirkintilloch



Woodland Burial

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Graeme Alexander OBE 1949 – 2017



Graeme Alexander was born on 30 October 1949 in Derby Street, Glasgow. He was a former pupil of the High School of Glasgow and attended the University of Strathclyde, where he completed his first degree in chemical engineering in 1971, followed by a PhD in production engineering in 1977.

While at university he participated in a wide range of extracurricular activities, and it was during this time he became heavily involved in the Royal Naval Reserve. Joining in the early 1970s, it was here that he met his wife Cathy, who was a Leading Wren.

Graeme accrued a large number of qualifications, with a particular focus on navigation and seamanship. He became qualified to command minesweepers, and captained ships in a range of locations around the UK and abroad before progressing through the ranks to Senior Commanding Officer.

Upon leaving university, Graeme joined the Moodiesburn-based collagen-casing manufacturer Devro in 1976 as a production shift manager. He rose quickly

through the company's ranks in the Scottish division before moving to Bathurst, Australia, in 1982 to help establish the site as a world-class manufacturing location. It was here that Graeme and Cathy's eldest child, Mhairi, was born.

Returning to the UK in 1985, their second child, Alison, was born. The family then set up home in Killearn in March 1986 before the youngest, Gordon, was born in 1987.

Graeme continued to work at Devro, being promoted to Company Director in the late '80s and leading the management buyout from Johnson & Johnson in the early '90s. A further promotion to CEO followed shortly after. In this role, he led the flotation of Devro on the London Stock Exchange as a public company in 1993 as well as orchestrating the major international acquisition of the US company, Teepak, in 1996. As a result of this work, Graeme was awarded an OBE for services to the food industry in Scotland in March 1997.

Graeme continued to lead Devro until his retirement in 2007. On retiring he volunteered his time in a number of mentoring roles, helping charitable organisations such as Pilot Light, Early Years Scotland, where he was a Board member, and East End Community Carers, where he was Chairman of the Board. He also dedicated a significant amount of time to Poppy Scotland. Having become a member of the Scottish Advisory Committee in 2011, he became Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 2013.

In addition to his charitable work, a central focus of Graeme's later life was Buchanan Castle Golf Club, where he served as Captain from 2013–15 and was instrumental in establishing the golf club as an independent business. As a result of his unwavering involvement and support, he was granted Honorary Lifetime Membership in February 2017.

Graeme was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in June 2015. Having put up a brave and dignified fight for just over two years, he sadly died peacefully at home on 17 June 2017. The support shown by former colleagues and friends during this time stands as a testament to Graeme's care, respect and commitment to others, and he will be sorely missed by all.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Remembering Travelling Folk

Between 1932 and 1952, an old tinker lady (as travelling folk were called in those days) arrived in Killearn and pitched her tent in the field adjacent to where Branziert Road meets Main Street. There used to be a scrubby oak tree at that spot. She was known as Grannie Cameron. This was a yearly sojourn which commenced each April and continued until October. With her were the children of the extended family, ranging from babies to 11-year-olds. Their parents were working on the local farms.

I remember them as a very happy group. Children over the age of five went to school in Killearn. Each child had tasks, like collecting water and firewood, as well as collecting tin cans and scrap iron, rags and sheep

wool. Although they all smelled of wood smoke, these children were spotlessly clean.

Grannie Cameron would come to my mother for a cup of sugar or flour or fat, and we were always thanked with a rabbit on the doorstep, or a bundle of clothes pegs or a trinket of some sort.

Grannie Cameron died in 1952 and the funeral service was held in Drymen church. Her popularity was displayed by the number attending the service – it was standing room only. At the graveside, all those who were there took their turn in helping to fill the grave. It was certainly an event from the past never to be repeated.

JIM FALLAS

Alison Robinson 1930 – 2017

Alison Robinson was born and brought up in the west end of Glasgow, the elder daughter of George and Molly Lee. She was educated at Laurel Bank School, Harrogate College and St Andrews University. She proved an able student in all subjects and a good sportswoman, excelling in swimming and athletics. After graduating, she had several office jobs before becoming a teacher of English and history at Westbourne School.



A long-term family friendship with the Robinson family blossomed into a romance with Robin, and the pair married in 1962 and made their home in Killearn, living first in a flat at Dunkyan until they had a house built in Drumbeg Loan. The family grew with the birth of a daughter, Jane, and sons, Tom and Peter, and Alison combined family life with an active involvement in church and village activities.

In all she tackled, Alison did so with success. At home she was a dedicated mother and a renowned cook and hostess, presiding over a household that rang with laughter and lively chatter. Outside the house, she gave readily of her time to others and to a wide range of voluntary interests. She was a long-serving Elder of Killearn Kirk, a former leading figure of the Guild, the Monday and the Thursday clubs. She worked for a number of years for the McLaren Fund and her 50 years of being a poppy seller was recognised by the Royal British Legion. Everything she touched was characterised by her calm and efficiency which was overlaid by her gently humorous and self-effacing manner.

She had a wide circle of friends to whom she gave generous hospitality and with whom she shared her enthusiasm for golf, curling, skiing and mountain walking. Her love of the arts – literature, fine art and music – was central to her life and enabled her to nurture these interests in her children.

She wore her years lightly and retained her excellent deportment (for which she once won a school prize) and gracious manner that prompted some to liken her in appearance to the Queen. There was, however, nothing remote or rarefied about Alison. She was eminently approachable and friendly to all.

Alison died in March, nearly three months after suffering a major stroke. Her passing leaves a huge gap in the lives of her family, her friends and in the whole village. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. BP



Andrew Anderson & Sons Funeral Directors

Est. 1969

“Stand Sure we will look after you & your family”

We are proud to offer a **24 hour caring and professional service** to the local community.

A wide range of memorial stones are available.

We can also clean and add further inscriptions to existing family memorials.

CALLANDER
Funeral Home, Glenartney Road,
Callander, FK17 8EB
Tel: 01877 330 398

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

BALFRON
64b Buchanan Street,
Balfron, Glasgow, G63 0TW
Tel: 01360 441 023

Email: info@anderson-funerals.co.uk • www.anderson-funerals.co.uk



PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD

Set by PeeWit

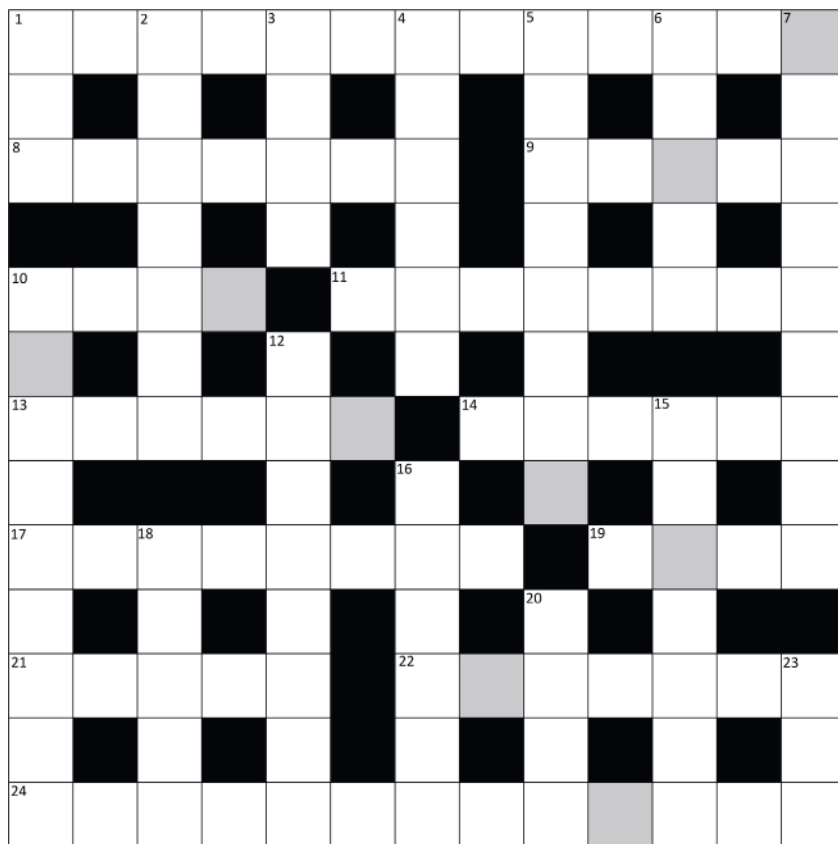
Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would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

ACROSS

- 1 A welcome no longer here in the Square (8,5)
- 8 Rate the playhouse (7)
- 9 Killearn on these is looking as good as new (5)
- 10 Fight for this shop no more (4)
- 11 Discourage whisky after die without end (8)
- 13 Stop Yorkshire river, no it will last (6)
- 14 King Kong will copy a male (6)
- 17 Hear a tick after journey to painting (8)
- 19 Appeal is shaken when missing ap (4)
- 21 He dislikes headgear on the queen (5)
- 22 Untie United Nations problem (7)
- 24 When 10 closed this comes weekly (4,6,3)

DOWN

- 1 Gear when pet loses bottom half (3)
- 2 Our minister in hospital, no the sheltered side (7)
- 3 Food when teas around (4)
- 4 Edinburgh is a bit smelly (6)
- 5 See hippo watering with this (8)
- 6 Wild animal playing golf (5)
- 7 Liner was in Asia until sunk (9)
- 10 Hard workplace where you perspire (9)
- 12 I too roar at this magnificent music (8)
- 15 Flaming cocktail (7)
- 16 Untidy cut short around the neck (6)
- 18 Greek letters for short moments (5)
- 20 23 loses tail but still looks elegant (4)
- 23 Glasgow term of affection is fowl (3)



Winner of the last crossword: David Pettigrew, Killearn

The letters in the grey squares make up an anagram of somewhere in the village (4,5).

Solve the crossword and find the answer to the anagram. This is the solution; email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send it to the *Courier*. Instructions in the box below.

Solution to the last crossword: Across: 1 berated; 8 royalty; 9 raunchy; 10 mattins; 11 ashen; 13 ownership; 15 harmonica; 18 taxes; 21 Endrick; 22 Johnnie; 23 apostle; 24 throne Down: 1 burka; 2 rough; 3 technologists; 4 Drymen; 5 Oystercatcher; 6 bluish; 7 hyssop; 14 isle; 15 hyenas; 16 radios; 17 inkjet; 19 xenon; 20 sheds.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Nine roads are *Allan, Buchanan, Crosshead, Elm, Gartness, Ibert, Lampson, Napier and Station*.

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

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

Instructions for sending it are given in the box below.

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win. Place your solution(s) in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to competition@kfcf.co.uk with your name, address and a contact phone number before **2 September 2017**.

Children, are you not trying the word search? If you do, please send in your answer, because we had no entries last time and someone missed out on a chance to spend £10 on goodies in the Co-op!

There's No Place Like Home

One of my hobbies is 'twitching' – the pursuit of seeing rare birds in Britain. A twitcher's focus goes beyond everyday birdwatching and often involves travelling considerable distances to see rare birds once news breaks of their discovery. Over the years, this obsession has taken me to every corner of the country to add to a growing list of species seen. Of course not every expedition is successful, with some birds going missing or simply flying off, never to be seen again, before I get there.

And so it was that I found myself one cold, rainy Saturday morning in February, trudging through a wet, featureless field on the edge of a small village in Yorkshire. I was 250 miles from home, looking for a small but very rare bird: a Pine Bunting. This close relative of our familiar Yellowhammer, and rare vagrant to Western Europe from Asia, had routinely been feeding along the bordering hedgerow. But after an hour of searching it was still nowhere to be seen.

The rain came down relentlessly. Despite the bird's rarity, it looked as if no one else was about; it had been showing to visiting birders for several weeks, so as a relative latecomer I presumed I was on my own. However, edging forward, I spied another drookit character standing ahead of me, similarly scrutinising every small bird that hopped out from the hedge. Like me he was suitably attired to resist the elements while staring through binoculars one minute and a telescope the next, becoming more and more dismayed and disillusioned,

but always with that crumb of hope that the quarry might eventually reveal itself. Who was this mystery figure, my sole companion in such a bleak, random setting under dark grey clouds? What distance had he travelled and from what corner of the country in pursuit of our common quest? I came up alongside him, we said hello and got talking.

It's a small world right enough. It took a moment or so of exchanging stories to realise that not only that we were both from Scotland, then from just north of Glasgow, but also that... yes, from Killearn itself! Of all the muddy fields in all the villages in all the world, we had both walked into this one.

Apart from the recognition that we would each have saved a fortune in fuel had we car shared, it was truly a very funny and heart-warming moment. Meanwhile the rain grew ever heavier, washing away our hopes of connecting with the bunting. After giving it a couple more hours, we eventually accepted that it was simply not our day and headed home separately. Soaked through, freezing and without my reward, at least I had a story to tell and was still chuckling to myself on arrival home.

Over the next few days, excellent views of local Yellowhammers – beautiful birds in their own right – reminded me that there's a lot to be said for staying at home to appreciate the wildlife on our doorstep. Not to mention staying in bed on those rainy Saturday mornings.

MARTIN CULSHAW

David MacDonald

Quality Family Butcher

The Square, Drymen, G63 0BL

MacDonald Butchers have relocated to our Drymen branch and offer the same range of products and service.

We deliver to Killearn daily

For more information please call:
01360 660512 07849 883401

Top quality Beef, Lamb, Pork,
Poultry, Fish and Game

Homemade Award-Winning Steak Pies,
Sausages and Burgers

Fruit and Vegetables

Wide Selection of Cheeses and Pâtés

Killearn Courier
is published by
Killearn Community
Futures Company



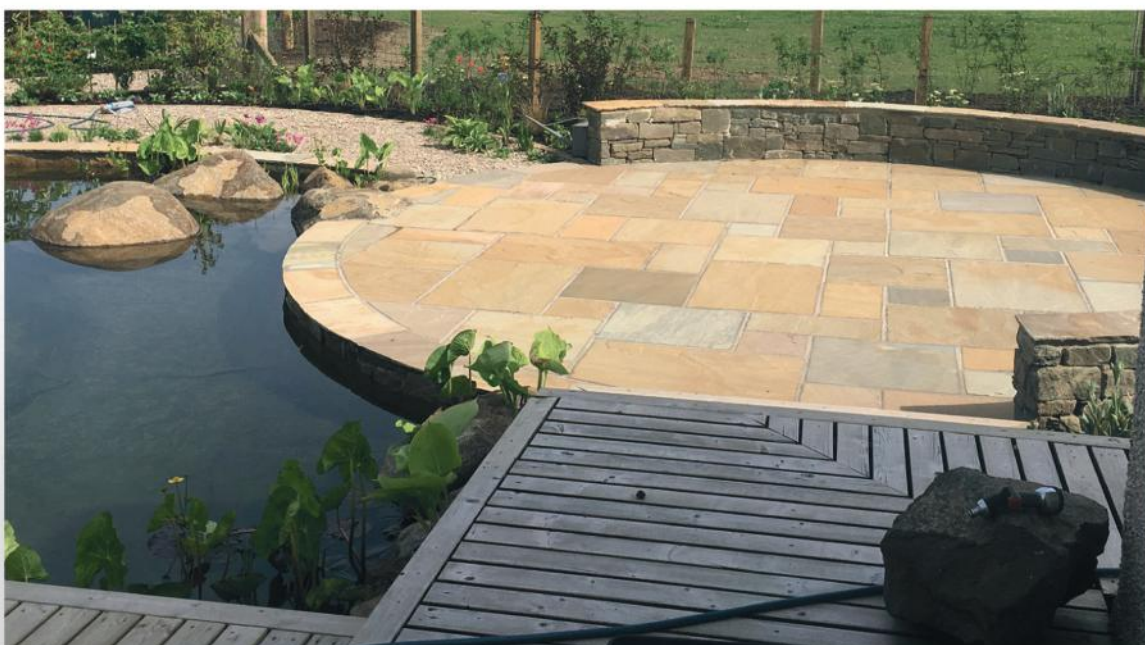
Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* winter edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 18 November 2017.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 29 September. Contact:
Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 29 September. Please send them to:

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

The *Courier* is not responsible for the content of advertisements. Please support our advertisers who make the *Courier* possible.



Tel: 0141 942 8251 M: 07727 045 939

For further information see

www.maccolllandscaping.com | www.pdstokeslandscaping.co.uk