



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 53

SUMMER 2022

£1



Noticeboard

17 Aug	Killearn Kirk Prayer Group meeting, and every Wednesday thereafter. Meeting Room, 10.30am.	20 Oct	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Chris Alexander, 'Colouring the Russians'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
27 Aug	Killearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).	23 Oct	Killearn Kirk concert with the Phoenix Choir in aid of the Carers Trust, 3pm.
5 Sep	Strathendrick Singers meeting. Balforn Church, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact hello@strathendricksingers.org.uk .	25 Oct	Killearn Kirk Guild project evening. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm.
10 Sep	West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Open Day and taster sessions. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–1pm. New members and visitors welcome. First visit free. www.weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk or contact the secretary (weavers.in.glasgow@gmail.com).	27 Oct	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by Pam McNicol, Stirling Council Archivist. 'Witchcraft and witch trials in Stirlingshire'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk
15 Sep	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley Lecture by Leslie Primo, 'Leonardo, Maestro Del Disegno, at the Court of Milan'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk		Killearn Community Futures AGM. Contact Graeme Fraser (convenor@kcfc.co.uk).
17 Sep	FADs summer Open Day tbc. www.fintrydrama.org.uk	4 Nov	KCFC bonfire and fireworks The Glebe, 7pm. Display at 7.30pm.
20 Sep	Strathendrick Stitchers Share your own stitching. 'Red Stitches', sales table and library will also be available. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £4 per session; first visit free. Contact Susan Rhind (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).	8 Nov	Killearn Kirk Guild meeting. Balforn School Band. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm.
	Colourful Killearn autumn meeting. Village Hall Garden Room, 8pm. Contact Mike Gray (550962; mike@kcfc.co.uk).	11 Nov	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. Non-members, £5 entry.
21 Sep	Killearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).	12 Nov	West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers illustrated talk by Jim Holmes, 'Textiles in Traditional Communities'. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–1pm. New members and visitors welcome. First visit free. www.weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk
22 Sep	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by Bruce Keith, 'Are we nearly there yet? Scotland's milestones, way markers and journeys, from mediaeval pilgrimages to the Jacobite cause and early tourists'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk	13 Nov	Killearn Kirk Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45am, followed by a service in the church.
2 Oct	Killearn Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30am.	15 Nov	Strathendrick Stitchers illustrated talk by Susie Finlayson, 'One More Stitch Along the Road I Go' plus a chance to add stitches to the Galashiels Interchange Tapestry Panel Project. Kirk Hall, 10am – 2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £4 per session; first visit free. Contact Susan Rhind (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).
7 Oct	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Belfast</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. Membership forms available from Terry Conway (440250; strathfilmsoc@yahoo.com) or via www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk . Non-members, £5 entry.	16 Nov	Killearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).
8 Oct	West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Rug weaving workshop with Floraidh Smith. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–4pm. Contact the secretary (details above).	17 Nov	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Tobias Capwell, 'Mars and the Muses'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
11 Oct	Killearn Kirk Guild meeting. Julie Symmonds – balance working from toes, connecting brain to body. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm.	19 Nov	Killearn Kirk charity concert to support Ukrainian families, 7pm.
18 Oct	Strathendrick Stitchers exploring the resources cupboard: silk painting and using heat to manipulate fabric. Kirk Hall, 10am – 2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £4 per session; first visit free. Contact details above.	22 Nov	Killearn Kirk Guild Comfort International, Lyndsay Kirk. Sales table. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm.
19 Oct	Killearn Community Council meeting. Zoom or in person, venue tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; fiona.rennie@btinternet.com).	24 Nov	Drymen & District Local History Society talk by David Simpson. 'William Roy's map and the '45 Rising'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm.

If you have dates of events for the Winter issue of the Noticeboard (mid November to mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (07985 082678; heather.mcarthur@virgin.net).

Killearn Village Hall Classes and Clubs

MONDAY

Yoga: Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am. Suitable for all.

Contact Sarah Fleming (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).

Monday Music: Main Hall, 11.15am–12 noon.

Contact Clare (claremondaymusic@gmail.com).

Monday Club: Main Hall and Garden Room. 1pm–4.30pm.
Badminton and bridge.

Dance with Julie: Garden Room, 5.45pm–7.15pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; jjsymmonds36@gmail.com).

TUESDAY

Badminton: Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am.

Foot Health Clinic: Committee Room 9.30am–2pm. Contact Jacqueline Morton for availability (07703 799112).

Yoga Class For Carers: Garden Room, 10.30am–11.30am. Funded through Stirling Carers and free to all carers in the area. Contact Stirling Carers (01786 447003) to attend.

Town Break Stirling: Garden Room, 2pm–4pm
(www.townbreakstirling.org).

DIY circuits: Main Hall, 6.30pm–7.30pm. All welcome. Contact Fiona (fiona.rennie@btinternet.com) or Nick (07860 700928).

WEDNESDAY

Yoga Class: Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am. Suitable for all.
Contact Sarah (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).

Ear Wax Microsuction Clinic: Committee Room 9.30am–2pm.
Contact Jacqueline Morton for availability (07703 799112).

Tai Chi & Qigong: Main Hall, 10.30am–11.30am.
Contact Sukyee (07910 941497; sukyee.tai@gmail.com).

Dance with Julie: Garden Room, 2.15pm–3pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; jjsymmonds36@gmail.com).

Pre-school Dance Class: Main Hall, 4pm–4.45pm.
Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).

THURSDAY

Pilates: Main Hall, 10.15am–11.15am. Suitable for all. A mix of exercises to mobilise, strengthen and tone the whole body whilst having a gentle workout too. Contact Linda (email@talltreesaberfoyle.co.uk).

Children's Music Class: Main Hall, 11.15am–12 noon.
Contact Clare (claremondaymusic@gmail.com).

Dance with Julie: Garden Room, 12.15pm–1pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; jjsymmonds36@gmail.com).

Linda Turner School of Dancing: Main Hall, 4pm–6.30pm. Dance classes for children of all ages. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).

Dance with Julie: Garden Room, 5.45pm–7.15pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; jjsymmonds36@gmail.com).

Adult Jazz Dance: Main Hall, 7pm–8pm. Contact Yasmin (07979 856837; yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk).

FRIDAY

Yoga Class: Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am. Suitable for all.
Contact Sarah (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).

Dancercise (adult 50+ fitness): Main Hall, 10am–11am. Low-impact dance-based exercise and routines for over 50s, ladies and gents.
Contact Yasmin (07979 856837; yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk).

Dance for Parkinson's: Garden Room, 12.15pm–1.15pm. Providing creative movement and dance to the Parkinson's and mobility disorders community. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; jjsymmonds36@gmail.com).

Buchanan Castle Bridge Club: Garden Room, 2pm–5pm. Contact Lesley Nicholl (07720 978998; lesleynic7@icloud.com).

Editorial

WELCOME...

...to the 2022 summer issue of the *Killearn Courier* (would you believe the 53rd issue?). As I write, the temperature has gone through the roof with the office being something akin to working in a closed greenhouse; now I know how tomatoes feel!

There are 44 pages packed full of local news, articles from our usual contributors as well as a few 'snippets' of interest. Check out the centre pages which highlight the village Jubilee celebrations, an event which saw the community being drawn together.

There is some information on local businesses, making use of premises in the village which have become vacant.

We still feature our long-standing advertisers along with some new additions. The 'old' ones have been with us for some time; indeed, a few have been with us since we started. They all deserve our support. They provide a source of income which, along with other sources, enables us to be able to deliver the *Courier* free of charge to all households in the parish.

Over the years we have been producing the *Courier*; we have accumulated a modest sum of capital and from time to time, we have been able to make donations to various local organisations, in partnership with the Killearn Community Future Company. We are keen to continue with our support for the community in this fashion, so if you think we could help your organisation, please contact us at courier@kcfc.co.uk or via KCFC (www.kcfc.co.uk). Alternatively, you can contact the Editor at 36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT, or any member of the *Courier* team. Your organisation must be community based and not-for-profit. You need to tell us what any donation would be used for and the benefits it would bring. Your submission will be considered by the *Courier* Group, and you may be contacted for further information before we pass your request to the KCFC Board.

So, sit down in a nice shady area, with a glass of something cold and enjoy this issue.

Ian

Cover Image

The cover photo of the Jubilee Beacon was taken by Sarah Deas and remains her copyright. Our thanks to Sarah for her permission to use the image.

Come to the Annual Show

The Killearn Horticultural Society's 156th Annual Show returns in full on Saturday, 27 August, for the first time since 2019. Following judging, entries will be on display in Killearn Kirk and the Village and Church halls from 2pm, with the presentation of prizes at 2.30pm. Not forgetting teas in the Church Hall from 2.45pm.



Following two online shows due to the pandemic, the Horti committee are very much looking forward to seeing your entries and hoping to break the record of 917 entries.

If you bought a schedule, you can get free entry on the day for you and your family. Schedule sellers will have visited everywhere in the main village by now, but if you missed them, please ring 07788 373142 or message our Facebook page, and we will make sure we deliver a Schedule to your door for £3.

If you are not already receiving emails from the Horti to stay up to date, then 'register your interest' for the latest news, updates and reminders (www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk/annual-show).

We look forward to seeing you on the day!

SYD THE SNAIL

The Fireworks are back!

After a two-year Covid suspension, we are delighted to report that 2022 sees the return of the annual Killearn Charity Fireworks Display. This year's event will take place on the Glebe at the Village Hall from 7pm on Friday, 4 November. There will be further publicity promoting the Fireworks via social media and in the household delivered brochure leading up to the big day.

One of our primary objectives is to raise money in support of local charities and organisations, and we decided to run the display on the Friday rather than the Saturday for reasons of cost. The Saturday would have been considerably more expensive for the same standard of display, and we wished to protect the funds available for charity distribution.

We will continue to donate to local youth organisations and the other parties who provide organisational support.

In addition, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to suggest a locally-run good cause which we would promote as this year's main fundraising initiative. The success of this would, as always, depend on the generosity of the attending crowd so here is an early plea to give generously! Please contact Graeme Fraser (convenor@kcfc.co.uk) if you have a charity which you think would meet the criteria.

As always, we wish everyone to enjoy this annual community fun evening, and believe that this prescheduled and safely run fireworks display is the most appropriate way to allow as many of the community as possible to join in, be amazed and to help our many brilliant charities.

GRAEME FRASER, KCFC FIREWORKS CONVENOR

Strathendrick Film Society is back!

Put the small box in the corner of your living room aside. Come and experience the big screen and big sound of a shared cinematic experience at a local venue. The Society will again start screening a full programme of films at Balfon High School, starting on 7 October with *Belfast* – a coming-of-age drama written and directed by Sir Kenneth Branagh that follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, during The Troubles.

The full programme continues through to the end of March with a variety of films to appeal to all tastes and genres:

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, *The Incredible Journey*, *The Dressmaker*, *Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid*, and finally *1917*

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website (www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk); they also available from Killearn Village Hall, or by emailing strathfilmsoc@yahoo.com.

Memberships are: standard, £20; concession, £15; students (16–18), free; single night, £5.

Refreshments will be available beforehand.

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Killearn Advent Windows Trail



After only two years, the Advent Windows Trail seems to have become a part of Killearn's Christmas traditions, so we are inviting all you creative types to start planning your displays now!

Just like an Advent Calendar, an illuminated window will be revealed each day from 1 December until Christmas Eve.

Perhaps you'd like to create a window? Do you have a window that is visible from the street? If so, and you'd like more information, please get in touch with Glenda at killearn.advent.windows@gmail.com by 1 October.

Once again, we will be raising much needed funds for charity, and perhaps also organising some workshops for participants to get their creative juices flowing. Meantime, just go online and search for 'Advent Windows' for inspiration!

News in brief

Congratulations to Dr Moira McKenna, daughter of Jim and Freda McKenna of Killearn, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. The award was made for services to young people. Moira, who is a GP in Dingwall, has served as Chief Commissioner for Girlguiding in Scotland for the past four years. By working closely with Girlguiding UK, she ensured that all 30,000 young members and the 10,000 volunteers were kept in touch and supported by online information until a return to outdoor and indoor guiding became possible. Whilst doing this, she continued to run her own Ranger unit and to deliver a huge vaccination programme in her professional work.

FADS are One-Act Play Festival Scottish Champions 2022! The local dramatic society won the Scottish Final of the annual One-Act Play Festival, which was held in Orkney in April. Although pipped to the trophy by England at the British Finals in June, *Housebound* was a huge hit with the audience.

Congratulations to the *Thornhill Views*, which published its 50th edition in June/July 2022. It's no mean feat to reimagine the *Thornhill News* (as was) and produce a popular, bi-monthly community newspaper while retaining such high standards. Well done to everyone involved!

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We have had a mild winter with a mix of sunny spells and wetter weather.

January continued the mild winter theme with temperatures throughout the UK averaging 5°C, which is 0.9°C above the long-term average.

February saw a strong jet stream and a succession of storms with damage to our forests and electricity supply.

March and April were very dry months, which could have implications for water storage later in the year.

Temperatures have been above the monthly average each month.

Clear skies this winter saw a number of beautiful sunsets. Watching the sun go down from Killearn on a clear evening, it is orange or red. Why these colours when



normal sunlight or visible light appears white?

The sun is actually made up of a spectrum of colours from red to violet, all of which have different wavelengths. As light travels through the atmosphere it gets scattered by air molecules. This occurs more to the shorter wavelengths – blue

and violet – hence we see the sky as blue.

As the sun rises and sets lower in the sky, the light has to travel longer through the atmosphere and more of the blue portion of the sun's rays scatter away from our eyes. This enables us to see more of the longer yellow, orange and red wavelengths – hence a red sun.

TOM RENFREW

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2022)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Highest Temp	12.6	10.1	17.9	20.3	19.6	22.7
Lowest Temp	-2	-3.1	-3.1	-2.4	3.9	5.2
Mean Temp	5.3	4.8	6.1	8.2	11.2	13.3
Days Below Freezing	5	4	8	6	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	43	48	22	23	35	18
Monthly Rain	61.2	189.4	47.3	29.8	70.2	58.8
Most Rain in 24 hrs	10.6	22.2	14.8	7.8	17.2	13.8
Days without Rain	13	1	16	19	8	11
Cumulative Rainfall	61.2	250.6	297.9	327.7	397.9	456.7

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

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Colourful Killearn!

Many of the barrels, troughs and planters you see dotted around the village are kept looking spectacular (and I'm in no way biased here) year after year by the 20 or so regular volunteers of Colourful Killearn.



Looking after over 40 barrels, 12 wall-top troughs as well as sundry other planters, pots and beds for public benefit takes a good deal of effort from our dedicated band.

Seasonal planting twice a year, trimming, weeding, repairing and seemingly endless watering in spring and early summer all serve to keep us on our toes. All done by villagers and funded by donations from villagers, with support from local organisations such as Killearn Trust and the Horti. We think the results are worth it, and hope you do too!

We will have a fundraising plant sale at the Horticultural Society's annual show on 27 August and would love to see you there.

We will then be planning winter jobs and spring planting on Tuesday, 20 September in the Village Hall. Do come along and join us.

MIKE GRAY (mike@kfc.co.uk; 550962)

Forth Valley Art Beat

Local art was in focus in June with the annual open studios event held throughout central Scotland.

Forth Valley Art Beat is a route linking artists' studios, which are open to the public during the event weekend, and it includes creative events and demonstrations.

Local artist Lorna Mackay took part in the programme and opened her garden studio in Dumgoyne. Lorna is well known to many aspiring artists as one of the tutors at Art4You, based at Oakwood Garden Centre.

Lynn Terry, who attends Art4You, also opened her studio near Drymen to show her paintings.

Lorna works in acrylic paints and inks to create paintings inspired by the stunning scenery in our local area. Outwith the Art Beat weekend, studio visits are welcome, please contact her (lornamackaystudio.co.uk) to arrange.

Bridge by Zorro

Throughout the summer Killearn Bridge Club has continued playing online using RealBridge. Indeed, the AGM in April voted to continue with online bridge when the winter sessions resume in September but with one night a month played face-to-face.

We have managed one match, against the Antonine Club: that was a decisive win for Killearn! To join us for any Tuesday club night, please go to our website and register. For the classes or any other queries, please email us via the website (www.bridgewebs.com/killearn).

This time we have a hand from the semi-final of the London Teams Championship of 1969. It illustrates the importance of choosing a good discard, for the wrong one here saved a contract that was otherwise doomed due to the bad break in trumps.

North's holding of 14 points plus the 10 was thought to be too strong for a weak no-trump opening. After North's rebid, South rightly insisted on a game contract shown by his forcing bid in Diamonds with the aim of getting a Spade preference.

West led the ♣9 taken by South with the King. The ♠3 was led to the King in dummy and the ♠4 returned. East had to discard, but which card?

What would you do, and how would it affect the outcome?

See page 38 for the answer.

Dealer: North East-West vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1H	Pass
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
3D	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

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

Killlearn Primary School Rotakids (AKA Rotapeeps)

After a period of non-activity due to Covid restrictions, the Rotapeeps were finally back in action, this time via P4. Elections were held for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, after which the club decided that everyone should have a job, so assistant secretaries and treasurers were appointed, along with photographer, graphics, publicity, communications and writers, all of which meant everyone in the club now has a role to play.

As they settled in to their 'new' classroom, a whole lot of unsold 'End Polio Now' crocuses were discovered in a drawer. At their next meeting, they agreed they would sell them. They did and raised £100 which has been sent off to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. The campaign is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates (Microsoft) Foundation so the £100 was 'matched' to total £300.

Discussions ensued regarding what they could do next. Suggestions included litter picking (which was ruled out later because of restrictions). After much discussion, it was agreed that everyone would learn to play the



recorder, and once that was achieved, the club would play at the school gates and send any money raised to Ukraine.

Later on, after much practise, they reached their goal and played at the school gates, raising £140, which has since been dispatched to Ukraine.

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From the Chalkface

P1 learned about life cycles and are currently keeping a pet caterpillar so they can watch it transform into a butterfly. P1WM made a beautiful golden coach for the Jubilee (see page 21).

P2 made drawings of the Queen and read a book called *The Royal Nappy* and then made one of their own!

P3 concentrated on the '60s and learned about famous pop art and dances as well as artwork and fashion of the time.

P4 learned about the '70s especially the band Queen!

P5 took on the '80s and learned about fashion, music and the creation of the Rubix's Cube.

P6 learned how to play Elvis Presley's song 'Hound Dog' on the ukulele, while P6MD did artwork based around the Queen's Jubilee.

P7 mummified tomatoes based on the same techniques used by the Egyptians – carefully filling them with nitrogen, which is made of salt and bicarbonate of soda. They are waiting to see what happens.

Other classes were also busy as well, with emphasis being on the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations.

THE PRESS GANG

Killlearn Village Hall News

As the weeks pass since the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, it seems that the sheep in the Glebe are the beneficiaries of the bare patch left by the beacon. As I look out from the Hall, the sheep are all gathered in that patch, sleeping in the sun.

We welcomed the chance at the Hall to play a role in the celebrations, helping to bring members of the community together, to see the amazing posters representing each of the seven decades of the jubilee produced by the primary school children, and to witness the lighting and phenomenal flame of the Jubilee beacon. And we celebrate the legacy of the Platinum Jubilee activities – the photos and memories, and the smiles. A big thanks to all of those involved in making the weekend a success.

And back at the Hall, there are two words that come to mind: planning and diversity.

We're seeing much more confidence from users. People are planning activities – a Burn's Night, a family reunion, the Horti Show. We're taking back control of our lives and planning. And whatever you are planning, we're happy to talk and see if we can help. Come and do some planning at the Hall!

As for diversity, we're always open to new ideas – carpet sales, a foot clinic, drumming lessons, ear wax removal services, friends coming to play badminton,



or just sit quietly having coffee in the Garden Room.

We're seeing a much wider diversity in use of the space in the Hall, and we're also seeing people catching up on those gatherings that they couldn't celebrate during Covid, such as wedding anniversaries and kids' parties (with bouncy castles!). We very much welcomed the chance to host volunteers who are working with local refugees to provide teaching of English and other sorts of local support.

What will we be welcoming you to? Come and have a look and a chat. Come and talk to us or email us (killlearnvillagehall@gmail.com).

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A KILLEARN HERITAGE TRAIL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Continuing our feature with recollections of some of Killearn's longest-serving residents, we meet Helen Maclean who has lived in the parish throughout her life.

'It's not the Years in your Life; It's the Life in your Years ...'

So says Helen Maclean (née Allan), the latest subject in our series of oral history interviews with long-term residents of Killearn. In fact, Helen has always lived in the parish and, although she is suitably modest about her actual age, her story illustrates interesting changes in land use and farming around Killearn. Sharp and remarkably fit for her years, Helen happily admits to being married just three days after the Queen's coronation in 1953!

Both of Helen's grandfathers worked at Drumore Farm – the beautiful farmstead down Gartness Road, on the lefthand side after the woodland cemetery – and her mother was born there. In those days, Drumore was a dairy farm and Killearn golf course was just below, before being ploughed up at the start of World War I to help with food production. Balfron golf course was likewise converted to farmland at the outbreak of the Second World War but, unlike the Killearn course, was reinstated in 1994 and thrives as a club to this day.

Helen's parents, Gavin (aka Guy) and Grace Allan married in 1923, and Helen and her elder sister, Meta were both born at Drumore. Her father took over managing the farm and, in due course, bought it from the Killearn estate.

The Lampson family owned the Killearn estate until 1939 – hence the road name in the village. Helen's father later built the first house at the top of what is now Allan Road – and was proud when the street in the new housing development was named after him. (The third road name in that part of the village is Napier, after the family who also owned land in the area. John Napier was the mathematician who invented logarithms.)

Helen's father was a keen curler and maintained the curling pond to a high standard, draining it every spring and cutting back the reeds. In those days it was large enough for four rinks – and Helen is sure it used to freeze almost every year.

Helen went to Killearn Primary School (at its old site, now converted to residences) where she won the Dux medal in 1939, and appeared in the annual Christmas shows at the Village Hall. She enjoyed cycling, tennis, ice skating and horse riding.



KILLEARN
HERITAGE TRAIL

She went on to Balfron High School, but only for four years before leaving to go to agricultural college. However, she only completed one year there as she returned home to help her mother work on the farm – an occupation for much of her adult life.

Helen met her husband-to-be, John Maclean, at the Young Farmers; they took on Drumore and married in 1953. Over time, they bought part of the land from her father, who was by then busy as a director of the Livestock Marts at Stirling.

Helen and John worked hard on the farm, but by then dairy farming in small units (they had 42 cows) was uneconomic, so they changed to farming beef cattle and sheep. They enjoyed a busy social life within the farming community and were keen golfers: Helen is still a member at Buchanan Castle Golf Club to this day.

John and Helen built Coraldene Cottage in Gartness Road, and when John contracted 'farmer's lung' (a nasty condition caused by breathing in dust and toxic substances), they sold Drumore Farm. After nursing John until his death in 2003, Helen moved to Rowan Crescent in the village; and subsequently to Abbeyfield where she now lives. This is entirely appropriate as, when Abbeyfield was built in 1983, Helen served on the steering committee.



Helen and Flora Connal in Killearn
Primary School Christmas Show circa 1939

G63 Food Growers Have Gone to Seed

It's been a busy few months for the locals of Killearn and surrounding villages, as keen gardeners have utilised the local village seed library situated in the Village Hall. The G63 Seed Library has been running for almost six months now and has seen over 1,000 packets of vegetable and flower seeds distributed across seven villages. The seeds are free to the community with the aim of encouraging villagers to grow food in their garden and enjoy all the benefits of home-grown, local produce.

Seed librarian Emma Calvert, said 'It's been absolutely wonderful to see the popularity of the seed libraries and to connect with local growers through the Facebook group 'G63 Food Growers'. The libraries were stocked largely from the donations of local growers as well as the local garden centres at Oakwood and Benview. We've reached the end of the sowing season for a lot of crops, so the libraries will now be closed and restocked for next year. The next stage for the library is for local growers to collect seeds from some of this year's crops to go into the library for 2023.'

Another aim of the seed library is to collate a collection of seeds of varieties that are locally adapted to the G63 area. This is an important step towards food sovereignty and sustainability in a changing climate.

The donations box will remain in the Village Hall for those growers who want to donate their vegetable and fruit seeds to the library over the coming months.



The G63 Food Growers Facebook group is a fantastic resource for those who want to learn more about growing their own food and seed saving.

Fintry Drama Club Open Day

Do you fancy learning a bit more about what's involved in community drama productions? Great news – we're pulling back the curtain for a day of tours, talks and workshops, and there's something for everyone.

If you've got a creative itch you'd like to scratch – whether that's treading the boards or helping nail them together – we'd love to welcome you to the FADS summer Open Day this September.

Members of our club who are all very experienced in different areas of drama production will be leading:

- Workshops in acting, choreography, make-up, props and costumes
- Tours backstage at the Menzies Hall and around our costume store at Fintry Sports Club
- Talks about various aspects of production, including lighting, sound and front of house

We're still firming things up, but are aiming to hold this open day on Saturday, 17 September, and all ages and abilities will be made very welcome.

If you're interested in joining us for what promises to be a fun and informal day of all things dramatic, just subscribe to our blog at fintrydrama.org.uk/subscribe and we'll let you know as soon as the details have been finalised.

SARAH WALKER



HARPER

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All For One and One For All

I am always surprised, when I go on to Google, at the items of news that spring on to the screen. Some of them are definitely newsworthy and usually depressing, and others are just odd. Like finding tigers in an optical illusion, or making Hong Kong-style French toast. And there is always some item about the Royal Family, as if we can't possibly access Wordle without reading about William and Kate first. Of course, the one family member that most of us are quite happy to see on the screen is the Queen, mainly because she has maintained her dignity for 70 years, and has said so little of a controversial nature.

And most of us were happy to celebrate her momentous anniversary. Parties abounded, even in small villages like ours. I speak as one invited to the Killearn Nursery Platinum Jubilee Tea Party, which was a charming open-air event, with cucumber sandwiches and cakes and delicate china. The children were delightful, the teachers most attentive, the sun shone, and it was just lovely. I'm sure Her Maj would have enjoyed it too. And what a super nursery! The children gave us all a tour, and although the Queen wasn't there in person, we did meet Fluffy the Goose.

And then a few days later, there were all the street parties. Trestle tables and gazebos abounded. At our end of the village, Natalie and Andy hosted a splendid barbecue, where I personally had the most succulent burger I have tasted in decades. There was also plenty of wine and cake. The idea of bringing the community together certainly worked in our road, in that we met neighbours we had never seen before, as well as

those we meet regularly.

But although the Jubilee was an occasion for all sorts of joint enterprise, the people of Killearn don't actually need such a momentous event to demonstrate their community spirit. It's there pretty well all the time. You only have to walk across the park to see mums chatting while they monitor their offspring, or dads playing football in a matey sort of fashion, with none of the histrionics deemed necessary in the professional game. Runners greet each other and puff their way round the village together, and dog walkers have their own world of codes and signals. People share everything from lawnmowers to weekend wine, just as they always have.

We don't need to worry that the younger generation have lost the instinct. They're the ones who run the 10K and the family races, while the oldies look on, lending their support and applause. Oh yes, the youngsters know a lot about joining in.

Proof, if proof were needed, will doubtless be seen when the Flower Show comes round. People will still enter the various categories, be it gardening, photography, baking, painting. The Show has always been a demonstration of the community at work and play, old and young together. Annual rivalries are played out with great good humour, and new stars appear in the Flower Show firmament. Whether or not one has entered any of the competitions, the Show is always a wonderful event just to attend, hugely enjoyable, and at the very heart of our community.

And once the Show is past, along comes autumn, with all the seasonal activities starting up again. There's curling and indoor bowling and flood-lit tennis. There's embroidery and painting and singing. And very few of us do it on our own. These are joint endeavours, and we are the community that takes part in them.

We certainly don't have to wait another 70 years to show everyone how it's done. JOYCE BEGG




**Dean Lockhart MSP**
Member of the Scottish Parliament
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba


**Please feel free to contact me
if you think I may be able
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Bigger and Better at the Old Mill



The unfortunate loss of Hewitt and Aker's delicatessen has been turned into a positive for the village by Mark and Alice at the Old Mill.

The Old Mill Shop is their new venture, bringing together several strands of their business into one courtyard, if not exactly under one roof. They hope that the shop, which will be open Friday to Sunday, from 9am to 4pm, will be the spot to pick up cakes and patisserie, breakfast rolls and savouries, Luvian's ice cream and coffees.

In addition, The Old Mill's 'Cook at Home' option is once more back on the menu, and the pizza oven has been fired up, too.

Alice recommends that you keep up with the expanding offerings and find out the latest from Old Mill website (www.theoldmillkillearn.co.uk/our-shop) and Facebook www.facebook.com/theoldmillkillearn/. NB

Community Council Update

The last meeting of Killearn Community Council for the session was held on 15 June.

At the AGM prior to the meeting, Jim Ptolomey was elected to continue as chairperson, Fiona Rennie as secretary and Elizabeth Jones as treasurer. Next year will be the fifth and last session for the present Community Council, following which new office bearers will be sought. At this time there remains a vacancy on the Council, and anyone interested should make contact with us at KillearnCC.org.uk.

It is at present proposed to commence next year with a return to live meetings in the Primary School, but views will be sought as to the best format, whether to continue live, revert to Zoom or alternate the format. Views are requested. In any event, the next meeting will be on 21 September at 8pm.

During the recess, although there will be no meetings, the work of the Council will continue as normal attending to issues as these arise.

JIM PTOLOMEY FOR KILLEARN CC

Killearn Health Centre News

Corona Virus

We are writing this in June 2022. We were pleased to have been able to offer Corona Virus vaccinations here in the surgery to all eligible patients aged 50 and over and to those in at-risk groups. Hopefully this has saved our patients the inconvenience of travel to central clinics. We are still awaiting updates on the Winter 2022 campaign.

Appointment Update

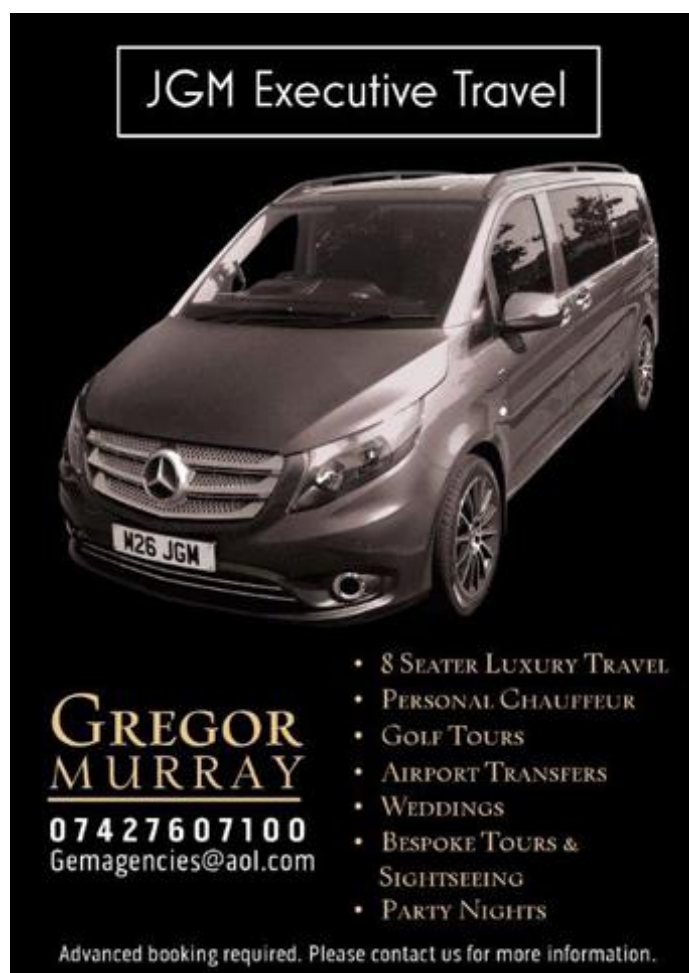
Over the last two-and-a-half years we have constantly had to adjust our appointment systems to reflect the guidance in place at the time. This has ranged from virtually all contacts being by telephone to where we currently are, with a mix of both face-to-face contact and telephone consultations.

Vaccination Update

We continue to offer shingles vaccination to all patients aged 70 to 79, and pneumococcal vaccination as a one-off to those aged 65 and over. We hope to be running the flu campaign for all those eligible from October 2022.

Staff Update

We welcome Dr Natasha Szmids who joins us for her final year of GP specialist training. Dr Patrick Kerr has left us to continue his Foundation Doctor training. We also welcome Dr Kathryn Green, who joins us for four months from August 2022 as part of her Foundation Year training programme.



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Killlearn Beer Festival Returns

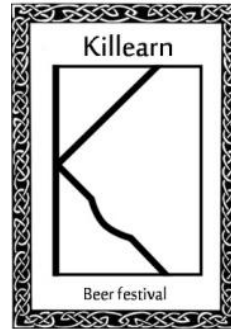
After what felt like a never-ending three-year hiatus, the Killlearn Beer Festival was good to go again, for its eighth annual event. Dusting down the cobwebs from the 2019 event, and trying to remember (the team is ageing slightly) exactly who had what equipment stored in their not-always-pristine garages, the team finally assembled everything needed for the big day.

And what a day it turned out to be. Despite a dreich previous few weeks, we were pleasantly surprised that the gods looked kindly down on us and provided glorious sunshine for the three days of prep, festival and clear up.

Another concern – that after a few years, people might have forgotten about the day – was instantly dispelled. Queues started forming well before the start, and this continued throughout the day; even at close of business people were still coming in. As in the past, in addition to the faithful locals, we attracted a large number of visitors from outwith the village while still managing to maintain a family and community feel, which has always been the key objective.

As with past events the focus was on Scottish beers, reminding us that for a relatively small country we have an astonishingly good selection of quality breweries. Previous favourites such as Loch Lomond and Harvieston and new favourites such as Allan Water, Ferry and Overtone provided us with everything from IPAs, Pilsner lagers and blondes to stouts and wheat beers. Feedback from our guests indicated appreciation of the effort in sourcing such a wide and interesting selection.

As with all events so far, the majority of money earned



will be targeted toward various local clubs, schools and charities, which have already been the recipients of around £4,000 of such donations.

Finally, a big thanks to all the volunteers, the Old Mill for hosting the event and providing a great range of food, and, of course, the guests for making this another enjoyable day, which is now established as a firm regular on the Killlearn social calendar.

So thanks again for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the first Saturday in June 2023.

MARK WHITE

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The (Dead) Seagull

We were on holiday in Southend, Mull of Kintyre, in a caravan. The location was paradise for all of us, but especially for our older son and his friend, both aged six, and also for our younger son, who was four years old. To reach the sea, all they had to do was to run down the sand dunes onto the beach and wherever they were we could watch them (and hear them). They would spend the entire day paddling, exploring the beach and climbing the dunes. They looked for and found treasure (such as shells, seaweed, beetles and a solitary wellington boot). They looked up everything (except the boot) in a handy little book in the *I Spy* series.

One sunny morning they came rushing back to the caravan shrieking with excitement. ‘Look what we found,’ they yelled.

They were carrying a large, exceedingly dead seagull. I leapt into ‘caring parent’ mode immediately, ordering them to put it down. They argued and sulked, and sulked and argued.

‘You have no idea where that thing has been,’ I said. ‘It’s been on the beach,’ one of them replied. I tried to explain that a dead bird could be infested with all sorts of insects and that touching it was probably quite dangerous. To illustrate my point, I put on a pair of rubber gloves and picked up the offending corpse with an exaggerated display of horror and disgust. I flung the dead bird far across the dunes into the gorse bushes, trying not to laugh at the three sulky faces watching me.

We had lunch. The boys would not speak to me. I was relieved when they asked if they could go and play on the beach. I cleared away and washed the dishes. I could see them in the distance, splashing about on the wet sand. I decided to find my book and take the chance of an uninterrupted read.

Some time later, although I couldn’t see them through the caravan window, I could hear them talking to each other. They sounded quite cheerful, so I assumed that they had recovered from their disappointment. I thought that some compensatory ice-cream money might be appropriate.

It was difficult to see where they were, but eventually I spotted them. They were sitting on the beach at the edge of the dunes talking quietly. They were gazing out to sea towards the horizon. Between them, on the sand neatly laid out, wings folded tidily, was the dead seagull. They must have searched through the gorse bushes quite deliberately to retrieve it. I strode towards them. I was very cross.

They turned towards me, quite undisturbed by my intervention, laying a warning finger to their lips.

I lowered my voice a little. ‘What on earth,’ I demanded, ‘do you think you are playing at?’

A son, in dignified tones, rebuked, ‘We aren’t playing. We’re watching to see if Jesus will come and take it to Heaven.’

CB



turnip the beet



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A Day on St Kilda

On 25 May, I boarded the *Island Sky* for an eight-day cruise around the Scottish islands. The whole itinerary sounded interesting and exciting, but my sole reason for joining the cruise was that one day would be spent on St Kilda. Many years ago, I read Tom Steel's book *The Life and Death of St Kilda*, and I was bowled over by the account of dramatic scenery and unique cultural history. I had long wanted to visit.

St Kilda is an archipelago, located some 50 miles west of Uist and comprising several islands and stacs. The largest island and the only one ever inhabited is Hirta, whose pronunciation in Gaelic may explain the archipelago's name. Certainly, there has never been a saint called Kilda. Archaeological evidence suggests several thousand years of habitation on Hirta, and there have been stable communities for centuries.

For around 600 years, St Kilda was owned by the MacLeods of Skye, with their factors visiting annually to collect the oil and feathers that served as rent. It is thanks to these visits that we know something about life on St Kilda. The picture is one of a simple society, with rigid gender divisions, but egalitarianism within gender groups. The men, for instance, would hold daily parliaments, where they would decide collectively on the tasks for the day and divide equally the fruits of their labour. Life was hard, but not without pleasure: an account of 1697 notes music and dancing at weddings.

Such gaiety did not last. From the early 18th century, a series of ministers and missionaries who espoused Protestantism at its most austere thundered that joyfulness is sin. Sabbatarianism became so absolute that, in 1877, the islanders preferred to risk starvation rather than unload a relief ship on Sunday. At the same time, though, the arrival of ships (including cruise ships) throughout the 19th century gave the St Kildans an inkling of a more



comfortable life, and in some cases triggered emigration. In 1852, 36 islanders left for Australia: a suburb of Melbourne is called St Kilda.

Unsurprisingly, one consequence of emigration was gradual population decline, and the population of St Kilda in 1930 was 36. However, emigration was not the only factor at play here. Tragically, a second pressure on numbers came from high infant mortality. Throughout the 19th century, over 50 per cent of the babies born on St Kilda died from tetanus shortly after birth. The cause remains unclear but, contrary to a widely held belief, unlikely to be the fulmar oil customarily smeared on the umbilical cord.

In any event, the 1930 population of 36 was close to non-viable. There were scarcely enough able-bodied men to launch boats and

seek traditional sources of food, and when a series of storms prevented ships bringing imported food from landing, the islanders came close to starvation. A petition to evacuate was lodged and accepted, and on 29 August 1930, the whole population was moved, with great media fanfare, to mainland Scotland. Many were offered jobs in forestry, somewhat ironic when St Kilda is completely devoid of trees.

So, what remains, and what did I see? Well, St Kilda is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland, and they have renovated some of the buildings. It is possible to visit the tiny church where so many hellfire sermons took place, and step into the adjacent schoolroom where, from 1709, basic education was provided. Several of the houses occupied at the time of the evacuation have



been restored, with one serving as a museum to life on St Kilda. Adjacent to these houses are the remains of black houses, which the islanders shared with their animals until the mid 1800s. Most poignant of all, though, is the cemetery with its many tiny graves.

Away from the village, I saw the dramatic cliffs, the highest in Britain. It is scarcely believable that the islanders used to scale these cliffs barefoot in search of their staple diet – the eggs and flesh of fulmars, gannets and puffins, which they stored in ‘cleits’.

I saw thousands of seabirds, and once I spotted a golden eagle soaring high above. Perhaps it was in search of a St Kildan mouse (a unique species) or a lamb. There are now thousands of Soay sheep on Hirta, descendants of the small number left behind in 1930.

All in all then, I fully understood why St Kilda has UNESCO World Heritage status for both its natural and cultural significance, the only place in Britain with dual status, and when my day ended, I was in no doubt that this was a visit I shall remember forever. CH



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Barefoot Eco Store opened its doors last month in Killearn's Main Street, the first of three stores to be opened this year by Barefoot Cleaning Services. Based in Aberfoyle, the company will be familiar to their domestic clients in Killearn and to their extensive commercial clients throughout Scotland, which include 5-star hotels, offices, and holiday and letting accommodation.

COP26 made us think more about the impact we as individuals and companies have on our world. It has led us to contemplate and possibly implement a more carbon-neutral, less wasteful way of both living and doing business. Barefoot Cleaning has spent the last 15 years doing just that, introducing sustainable and ethical products to their clients as well as operating ethical business practices.

Opening the Barefoot Eco store is a further extension of this, bringing principles of sustainability right into the community. Director Annette Gibson says the store 'evolved from the company's sustainable permaculture principles with a deep understanding that our actions have an impact on the world, from climate change to the health of its people.'

The store provides a wide range of products including fresh fruit and vegetables, herbs, eco baby goods, beauty and sustainable clothing and, of course, eco cleaning products, with the opportunity to refill containers. Small changes can make a big impact on our future is Annette's



ethos. The company is working towards producing its own cleaning product range. By next year it is intended that carbon offsetting advice and environmental audits will be available from the store office.

Annette tried retiring for a year, but decided she had too many ideas still to fulfil. Her enthusiasm and drive earned her the award of Scottish Business Woman of the Year 2021, and her company is currently nominated in the Best Business category of the Scotland's Business Awards.

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fsb
MEMBER

From the Village Hall Archive Cabinets

Post Office Sign

(in right-hand cabinet on main floor)

The Post Office in Killearn moved premises on several occasions before it transferred to Oakwood in 2014.

The first location was in the shop which was next to the current veterinary surgery on Balfron Road.

In the 1911 photograph of Balfron Road the sign can be seen just above the window to the right of the door.

Amazingly, someone decided to keep that sign thinking it might come in useful sometime! It eventually passed into the Archive collection for safe keeping.



Balfron Road showing post office

Commonwealth Queen's Baton Relay

(in right-hand tall cabinet in entrance area)

These items, a map of the route taken by the baton in our area and one of the small flags handed out to spectators, are relatively modern, dating only to 6 July 2014.

However, in AKA we often say history starts today, and these items do record the special day in Killearn when the baton visited the village on its way to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Unlike the Olympic Torch, there is only one baton. The Queen sends it off with a message and it is carried round the Commonwealth countries, finishing in the one holding the Games. The message is then read out at the opening ceremony by the Queen or her representative.

In Killearn, the baton was carried in the relay by four different people from the village. In addition, as Killearn was the lunch stop for the day, many of the spectators were able to hold and be photographed with the baton at the Village Hall.

Photo opposite: Jay Houghton, who ran the Dumgoyne Post Office for many years, with the baton

Selected Prose Works by Oscar Wilde

(in right-hand small cabinet in entrance area)

This seems a very strange item to be in the collection, but on opening the book you see the signature of John Topping Sanderson, dated August 1914.

John was the third son of Rev. Hugh Sanderson, the United Free Church minister, and one wonders what he thought of the book and its

author! John was a student at Glasgow University when he signed up at the start of World War I. He was killed by a shell in Belgium on 12 December 1915 while serving with the Border Regiment.

This book is a rare tangible connection to one of the names on the War Memorial.



John Sanderson in uniform



Killearn's



JUBILEE



Jubilations and Jollifications



In the UK, the first weekend in June signals the start of summer.

This year it also signalled the start of the

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

In Killearn, hundreds of us – from the youngest to the oldest – came together in a range of events to mark 70 years of royal service by

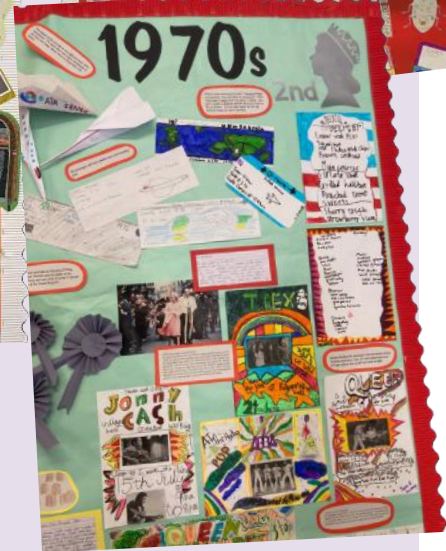
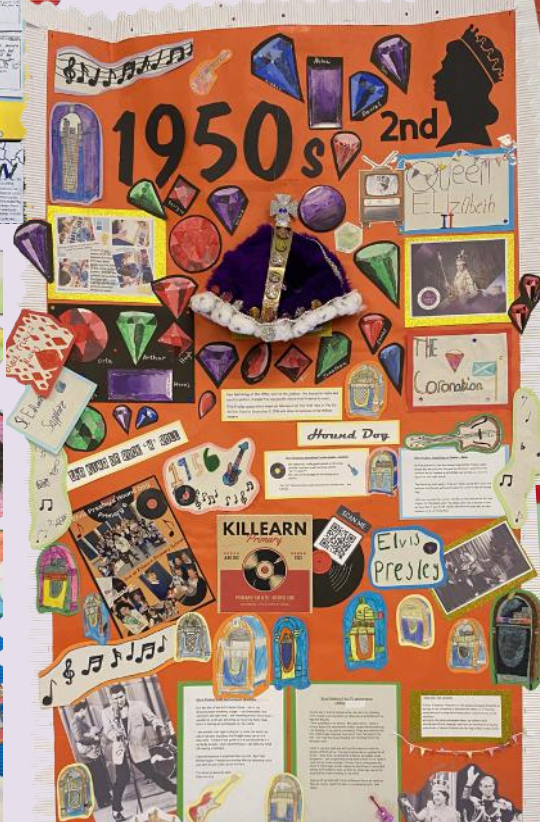
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

KILLEARN PRIMARY SCHOOL MARKING HISTORY

Killearn Primary School captured not only the broad sweep of history the Jubilee encompassed, but also managed to bring some wonderful pageantry to our celebrations.



In late spring, the Nursery Class led by Margaret Campbell worked with Colourful Killearn to establish some new Jubilee planters.



Every year group in the school worked hard to design and build displays to represent key events, fashions and music 'Through the Decades' of Her Majesty's reign. Each decade had its own display, and all were of an extremely high standard. While the younger years might have had more emphasis on bold colour and passion, the older years were most sophisticated, and included embedded QR codes that linked to more information, including videos they had made.

Parents had the chance to view the 'Through the Decades' experience at

the school picnic before it travelled up to the Village Hall to go on show for the evening Beacon Lighting celebrations on 2 June.

The final act in the KPS Jubilee celebration was a Royal Procession from the school to the Village Hall, led by a piper and accompanied by P1 in full regalia. They formed the honour guard to a State Golden Carriage, complete with corgi and a majestic mannequin



which actually waved to the crowds who turned out to see Killearn's own Jubilee pageantry.

Thanks to all the team at KPS and especially Ailsa Woodrow, Lauren McMillan and Colin Rae.

JOINING THE UK-WIDE BEACON LIGHTING

The Beacon Lighting event on 2 June saw a good crowd turn out to enjoy the range of stalls run by different village groups, and to treat themselves to some delicious food provided by the Kitchen Window and Turnip the Beet. As well as the chance to admire the school displays, there was a free children's quiz and a harder quiz for the grown-ups. Sales of quiz sheets and donations on the night raised over £350 which was donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

The main event was introduced by a range of pipe tunes played by Ajay Telese, a talented S4 pupil at Balfron High School. As the crowd gathered at the edge of the Glebe, Euan Shaw lit the beacon and within minutes, flames were leaping skywards, dramatically silhouetted by the sun setting over Loch Lomond. A superb end to a great evening made possible by hard work from the Village Hall team and KCFC's Fireworks Group. Thanks also to the Kitchen Window and The Old Mill for their support in providing quiz prizes.



AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

Regular royal watchers will know how critical afternoon tea is to Her Majesty, so it was fitting that Friday, 3 June, saw the Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea Party at Killearn Kirk Hall.

An organising committee of Anne O'Neill, Doreen Snadden, Maureen Blackmore and Sue Beck planned every detail. This culminated in the creation of a tea salon where almost 90 of Killearn's older residents were hosted by Killearn Brownies and Guides to a lovely afternoon with a dazzling array of sandwiches and bountiful baking (special mention to the Guide mums and other behind-the-scenes bakers for all their hard work).



After a dreary couple of years of cautious self-isolation, this proved an extremely popular event much appreciated by its invitees.

A number of the guests could recollect being schoolchildren at the 1953 coronation, and recounted their memories of events almost 70 years before.



SHARING STREET PARTY FUN IN THE SUN

Sunday, 5 June saw a more relaxed and informal celebration of the Jubilee with a number of streets and roads throughout the village hosting Big Lunches to encourage neighbours to get together, enjoy the sunshine (weren't we lucky with the weather!) and share some food, drink and good company.

Some Big Lunches took place in the afternoon – one even took place on the preceding Thursday evening – but all were thoroughly enjoyed by those involved, and provided an excellent way to round off the first weekend in June and close our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.



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FIT FOR A QUEEN

A team of volunteers worked hard to revitalise the village phone box, removing opaque windows and repainting the tired metalwork with the appropriate Official Red Paint. The final result was fit for a Queen.

And indeed Her Majesty took up residence over the Jubilee weekend, bringing a welcome touch of pageantry to this end of the village.

Many thanks to the ladies who organise our annual Advent Windows, Glenda Asquith and Kathleen Wright, for finding a midsummer outlet for their creative talents.



AND STILL TO COME ...

Autumn will see the planting of two commemorative trees, one in the Well Green and one in the Kirk grounds, along with plaques marking the fact that they form part of the Queen's Green Canopy – a nationwide celebration of the Jubilee designed to enhance our environment. We will also be creating a time capsule of memories of the Jubilee from across the village. If you want to ensure that photos of your street party are included, please send them in.

Thanks are due to the many people who assisted, in particular Stirling Council, Killearn Community Council and Killearn Community Futures Company, which kindly provided funding for events, also Killearn Trust and Killearn Kirk, which both provided facilities. Finally Paul Searle, who not only took many of the event photos, but also designed and typeset flyers, banners and invitations. To all the above and many others, many thanks.

FRANK DEAS



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The Larder at Town & Country

One of Killearn's favourite cafés has just had a bit of a makeover.

Tucked away in what used to be the office of Town and Country Designs, a new addition to Killearn's local shopping experience has taken shape. 'The Larder' is a sort of pantry, with essentials for foodies and condiment enthusiasts alike. World cuisine is well covered, but naturally, home produce is not neglected, with locally sourced seasonal fruit, cheeses and homemade jams, chutneys and piccalilli. On the weekend, the fresh bread, pastries and biscuits arrive for sale. But the range of gluten free and vegan products makes the space inclusive for any unique dietary requirements.

Jo, manager at Town & Country, said, 'The opportunity came for opening our Larder when the local deli sadly closed. We also had space within Town & Country that was needing a new lease of life. We had expanded our gift range, so now was the perfect time to

open a deli/artisan food shop, open the same hours as the coffee and gift shop.

'We started slowly with locally made chutneys, jams and marmalade also stocking Leckie eggs and strawberries from Fife. People then started to ask if we would stock good fresh bread and so the Larder grew.'

Rumour has it that things are going so well that extra space may be needed!

HATTIE GRAHAM



The Wine List

The world of wine, or perhaps the world in general, can feel very heavy right now and sometimes we just need a little light relief. With Gary Barlow joining the wine-making ranks of Kylie, Gordon Ramsay and Graham Norton, it seems a good time to review celebrity wine and, as the range available on the supermarket shelf grows, consider just how drinkable it is (hint: some of it very).

Due to budget constraints, Jay-Z's Champagne, 'Ace of Spades' – which would leave a £300 dent in your bank account – did not make the cut. But given that we are still (just) in the throes of summer, somewhere we would line up the rosés to see how they compare.

- ✦ **Chateau Miraval Rosé** – this is the most expensive celebrity rosé on the list, and by far the most successful. Originally owned by Brangelina (remember that celebrity pairing?) now only one remains, but the wine continues to shine. A fresh, elegant, wild strawberry scented rosé. (Available from Majestic)
- ✦ **Kylie Minogue** – there are two rosé wines in Kylie's range. One is a more premium Côtes du Provence that comes in at over £30 a bottle, but one is under £10 and widely available. This rosé is labelled as a Vin de France, as it's made with grapes from various southern regions. It's light in style, with attractive white blossom aromas, and expressive, crisp red berry fruit. A good party choice. (Available from most major supermarkets)
- ✦ **Hampton Water Rosé** – this collaboration between Jon Bon Jovi, his son, Jesse, and Gérard Bertrand, brings together the legends of music and wine in a single bottle. (Available from Majestic)

Special mention goes to Phillip Schofield and his Rosato Verona, which is made in partnership with When in Rome wines. Coming in a 2.25 litre box, it is a very environmental (and economical) way to enjoy a glass of rosé. (Available from Waitrose)

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A Needle Once Threaded...

Strathendrick Stitchers have completed a very successful first year as an independent stitch group. If there were any lingering doubts last September, these were dispelled early on as our members rose to the challenge of starting from square one. Members organised in-house workshop sessions on subjects ranging from specialist stitches and pincushion making to 3-D pieces incorporating natural elements and the Japanese art of sashiko.

We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant from Stirling Council, which underwrote our start-up costs and also enabled the group to bring in an outstanding speaker. Odile Hughson gave us a fascinating talk about the history of the paisley pattern and shawls, complete with samples to examine.

We also were the recipients of a generous grant from Killearn Community Futures (KCFC) via the *Killearn Courier* to underwrite the costs of classes with two specialist tutors, Toni Hanley (modern blackwork, example by Heather Wright pictured top) and Jane Currie (raised embroidery, see right by Sue Gray). The results will also be on show for



you to see in person at the Horti Show.

Both these grants proved invaluable and helped to set us firmly on our feet. It is our pleasure to thank both KCFC and the Council for their generosity.

This year – finally – we were also able to get out and about. In April, members were treated to the fabulously successful inaugural ‘Gathering’ in Stirling under the auspices of Scottish Stitch & Textiles, who have taken up the reins from the former Scottish Region of the Embroiderers’ Guild. It was an exciting day, full of meeting up with old friends, an interesting keynote speaker as well as much-appreciated access to traders’ stalls for all-important stash acquisition.

A trip in May to visit *Threads of Hope*, the Triennial Exhibition and Gathering in Dumfries’ Gracefield Arts Centre was nothing short of inspirational. Most members could have spent many more happy hours examining the offerings from the three textiles groups which combined to mount this tour de force of an exhibition. Waiting another three years for the next one will be difficult.

The 2022/23 session kicks off on 20 September at the Kirk Hall in Killearn from 10am, and the third Tuesday of the month thereafter.

All are welcome – from experienced needle-persons (yes, chaps too) to beginners who want to try something different. For more information, contact

Susan (strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com).

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Summer brings many visitors to the Forth and Endrick area and to Killearn, particularly the Devil's Pulpit. With the Catterburn Bridge still closed, traffic will increase along the B834 from the A809.

'Operation Elms' will run at peak weekends, resulting in additional officers being deployed at tourist destinations and local road networks, with attention being given to motorists to ensure that road networks do not become congested as a result of dangerous or inconsiderate parking. Stirling Council Enforcement officers will continue to provide us with assistance.

Some visitors have required the assistance of the emergency services and no doubt will do so in the future. We continue to work closely with our partner emergency services including the local mountain rescue and search teams, who occasionally have training days at the Devil's Pulpit in preparation for such an occurrence.

Theft

Vehicles have been stolen from domestic premises in the Killearn and Blanefield areas over the last few months. Due to the security of modern vehicles the perpetrators generally need a true key in order to steal the vehicle and therefore must get into the house in order to obtain the key. Put yourself in the perpetrators' place and take sensible precautions:

- Keep your home locked at all times – many thieves do not need to break in because a door or window has been left open or unlocked
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks or anywhere they can be easily found
- Don't keep house and car keys on the same key ring

- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed
- If your house is fitted with an alarm, please use it
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101

Fuel theft advice

There has been a rise in thefts of fuel from domestic and commercial tanks, so it's important to put measures in place to protect your fuel tank:

- Consider fitting alarms to external gates surrounding your fuel tank or to the inside of a shed or outbuilding that is housing the tank
- Fit a good quality lock
- Install CCTV cameras and security lighting on your premises to dissuade anyone from targeting your property and place signage to highlight the security measures you've installed

PC Steven Graham is the Ward Officer for the Forth and Endrick area, which incorporates Killearn and surrounding areas. He is based at Balfron Police Office, and can be contacted at the office, on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk for further advice. They regularly publish information and appeals online. The local Twitter feed can be found at @StirlingPol, and the local Facebook page can be found at 'Forth Valley Police Division'.

The current ward priorities for the Forth and Endrick area remain antisocial behaviour, road safety, theft, and community engagement and reassurance.

Conic Craft Makers Gonna Make

A fantastic opportunity for local makers has opened at 15 Main Street, Drymen, in the form of Conic Crafts gift shop. For many years this building was the local post/sorting office, and more recently a zero waste shop run by Hub63.

The shop has undergone a major revamp. The collective who runs it consists of over 20 makers, nine of whom form the core team making all decisions relating to the running of the shop and reviewing new maker applications.

They are accepting applications from makers who have something different to offer. All members pay a proportionate amount towards the monthly rent depending on their size

of space and whether they are able to do shifts in the shop. This means that the majority of the income received from sales goes straight back to the person who has made it. It's a fantastic business model which creates an opportunity for local makers – one which would not be financially viable do to on their own.

It is very much a team ethos – sharing the decisions, the running of a shop, providing members with support and helping each other to succeed. Currently, there are members from Killearn, Balfron, Strathblane, Buchlyvie, Gargunnoch, Helensburgh, Glasgow, Blackford and even Strachur.

The shop is currently open from

10am till 5pm, seven days a week.

For more information, visit www.coniccrafts.co.uk or our Facebook page.

GWENDA WATT





We're already halfway through our summer programme of events. Our monthly meets have been well attended, and we have been criss-crossing the Central Belt, as well as supporting local events and charities. April saw us circling Loch Lomond for Drive-it-Day, stopping at Mohr 84 for an excellent lunch and a return over the Duke's Pass to the Aizle. Some members quickly followed that up with a visit to Crieff Hydro, which was hosting a large car show. Not to be outdone, Stirling Car Club had their show with clubs from all over Scotland showing over 500 cars.

We have also met up with the South Western Thoroughbred and Vintage Car Club for a series of informal summer meetings at the Kirkhouse in Strathblane.

The Cally Palace Hotel in Gatehouse of Fleet was the host venue for a two-day trip that proved very enjoyable and successful. Drymen Show came hard on the heels of this, where we were able to put on a good display. There was a variety of cars of all ages – from a 1929 MG M-type, through the 1953 rosette-winning Bristol 401 (pictured right), to a 2018 Morgan Plus 4 110 (celebrating 110 years of the marque).

Unfortunately the Gartmore Gala two weeks later

was rained off. However inclement weather didn't stop us making a lunch run through lovely countryside to the Gloagburn Farm Shop in Tibbermore. In contrast, Sir Jackie Stewart's Thirlestane Castle Classic had fantastic weather, bringing out around 20,000 visitors over the two days. This was a marvellous showcase of Sir Jackie's career and achievements and an opportunity to see many of the cars he had competed in. All this in addition to a hill-climb competition and demonstration runs by F1 cars past and present, as well as an enormous static show of over 1,000 cars of all ages and makes.



© Allan Methven



© Katie Stevenson Photography

Poor weather hit us again at the end of June, but didn't stop 16 members turning up with cars and partners to a garden party on Loch Fyne. We are hoping for better weather for our annual Car-BQ, when we are looking forward to welcoming a Stanley steam car!

Later in the summer we have more lunch runs planned including to St Andrews, and a visit to the Scottish Torque Show near Dunfermline in support of the RAF Benevolent Fund in September. If you would like to join us,

or just find out more about the club, you can contact me at SCSCC.sec@gmail.com.

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The Church – a Turning Point

In recent years the Church of Scotland has seen membership and congregations decline. This has had a direct impact on what the church can afford. It has been increasingly difficult to keep all the current churches open with ministers in each. Over years there has been a move toward smaller churches sharing a minister, but even this has not been enough to slow the rate of decline. Last year the Church of Scotland agreed a radical plan to limit the number of paid ministry number to around 600 nationally. This will have a direct impact in every part of the country – including Killearn.

CURRENTLY	PLANNED CHANGE
Four ministers serving the churches of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killearn • Strathblane • Balfroon and Fintry • Drymen and Buchannan 	Two ministers serving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killearn and Strathblane • Balfroon and Fintry with Drymen and Buchannan
Six churches holding services	Possibly down to four regular and two with occasional services
Killearn having a minister of its own for things like funerals, weddings, baptisms, services, school work, etc.	Only half of a minister's time, so choices will have to be made about what can and cannot be done.

This kind of change will be experienced across the country. In places where a number of churches are located in the same area, some will be closed, particularly in town and city centres. What does this mean for residents here?

- The services and support of a minister will not be as accessible as in the past; it may take longer to arrange special services, such as funerals
- If a minister moves on or retires, there is no guarantee that another will be available

For those who think the Kirk has always been around and will always be around – you may have to think again.

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LULOCA Lifestyle, Balfron

If you have driven up Buchanan Street in Balfron over the past year you must have noticed the bright and welcoming shop front of LULOCA. The boutique is the brainchild of Killearn-based Angela Docherty, and she named the business after her three children: Luciana, Logan and Carolina.

The colourful exterior leads you into a contemporary setting and a tantalising cornucopia of womenswear, his-and-her gifts, cards and lifestyle products. It is a friendly and sociable environment perfect for relaxed browsing. Some of the gifts are locally sourced as part of Angela's drive to support local businesses.

Opening the business during a pandemic was a huge step for Angela, but after all the hard work, effort and long hours of research, buying, shop refurbishment and all the behind the scenes, it seems to have paid off. 'Although it's been one of the largest learning curves in my life, I feel that it's been worth it, and I love coming to work each morning and sourcing new products that



are unique and luxurious in every way. The best part is the satisfaction of helping our loyal customers choose presents and seeing them leave the shop happy.'

Angela aims to introduce new clothing brands to this area of Stirlingshire and include styles that are smart casual and a little different from the major retailers. She and her assistant Sam, wish for their customers to enjoy a relaxed and sociable shopping experience and leave with outfits that both look smart and have that all important feel-good factor. 'It is our simple ambition to bring a little bit of charm, inspiration and joy to you as a customer,' says Angela.

Angela's career background initially started in property until she moved into the family clothing business after having her children. With her husband Campbell, they rebranded and brought the Tartan and Tweed Highland side of the business up to date. This grew into a premium apparel brand Royal and Plaid, which sells worldwide.

Angela's bubbly personality matches the bubbles served on her 'Luloca Exclusive' private shopping evenings. Open to all ladies, it's an opportunity to hear a bit about the brands, try on clothes, pick out new styles while having fun and laughter with friends. The evenings take place on Thursdays or Fridays, and can be booked by contacting angela@luloca.co.uk.

For those further afield there is online shopping via www.luloca.co.uk.

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Rugby Round-Up

Strathendrick enjoyed a great end-of-season in April and May – as the sport recovered from the disruptions of Covid. On 24 April, the Minis held their annual Charity Tournament, raising money for local hospices. The event was again hugely successful: well organised, attracting hundreds of young players and supporters who thoroughly enjoyed their day of rugby.



The SRFC President's XV vs Club 1st XV players Photo: Mike Bastock

The following weekend, the Club held its first Annual Dinner for three years with a steak dinner at Fintry Sports Club, celebrating annual awards and listening to guest speaker Alan Sneddon from West of Scotland Rugby Club. Then on 21 May, SRFC hosted a very special President's Day – a huge celebration and fundraiser organised in collaboration with David Young and Callum Hastie. A staggering £28,500 was raised for the Brain Tumour Charity and RSABI!



SRFC Captains Craig Mundell and Duncan MacEachern with President's XV Captain Callum Hastie and referee Rab McHenry Photo: Mike Bastock

And so to the coming season. The Minis train and play on Sunday mornings – new players are welcome at all levels from P1–P7. The Midis – who enjoyed a brilliant season last year, with the U16s and U18s excelling in their national cup competitions – will again play in the Midland Schools Conference.

to many more 'Ws' this year. The 2nd XV will again be a blend of the young and the not so young – enjoying social rugby. Seniors' training is at 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Fintry. Again, new recruits are most welcome.

The 1st XV is now in West League 2 – having been relegated last season – but with an enthusiastic young squad and a great coach, the Club are looking forward

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

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10k Race Report

More than two years of frustration melted away in the sunshine on Saturday, June 4, when the Killearn 10k and Mile finally returned.

Everyone associated with the event was raring to go when they were able to meet again in the village park. With the long gap since 2019 adding to the feeling of freshness and excitement, it felt like we were in for one of the best days in the event's history. And both races lived up to that feeling of promise with excellent turnouts, some splendid running and a park full of beaming smiles afterwards.

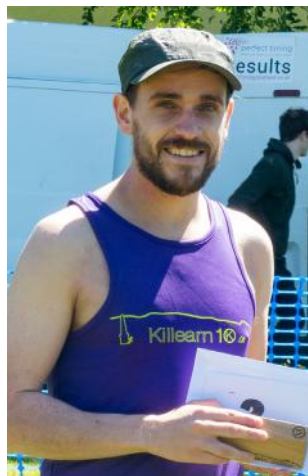
Families were out in force for the Mile, hosted by the Killearn 10k and Active Stirling, and the youngsters who filled many of the 200 available places were thrilled to get numbers on their chests and sustainable, personalised medals round their necks after their dash, jog or gentle walk around the streets of the village.

Even the warm-up, ably led by Chris from Active Stirling, was great fun. Promoting healthy physical activity is one of the main aims of the Killearn 10k, and it was wonderful to see so many people getting so much enjoyment from exercise.

The 10k, which took place after the Mile, had been sold out since December 2021 – the month when places went on sale – and the park was full of nervous and excited runners going through their paces as the 11am start time approached.

Plenty of black and white Killearn FC shirts were proudly worn, as they are every year on race day, but the boys in the team were outnumbered by the purple-vested Bellahouston Road Runners. They had so many entrants that they arrived in a bus, and were an impressive sight as they jogged round the park to warm up.

The start, which took place in the park this year to allow all runners to be timed from the instant they crossed the line, was a moving moment for many



left) produced an impressive run that also earned him the G63 prize for first-placed local male, but he was nearly three minutes behind Finlay, with a time of 38:47. Craig Ross (Bellahouston Road Runners) came third in 39:01.

The day was a triumph for young Valencia Wright (top right) (Giffnock North), who won the females' race

of the organisers. There were times when we feared our race would not be run again, and it was glorious to see so many runners – many proudly wearing their purple Killearn 10k T-shirts or vests – streaming out of the park to take on our beautiful but challenging course.

It took a remarkably short time for the first of them to arrive back. Finlay Finlay of Garscube Harriers (top left) is no stranger to Killearn 10k success after finishing fourth in 2019 and second in 2018, and he was literally streets ahead this year as he romped to victory in 35:54.

Second-placed Ross Anderson (bottom

in 39:35 and was the fifth runner home overall. She also took the female G63 and U-20 awards. Aida Rodrigo came second in the females' race in 42:05, with Abby Rowley third in 42:12.

Abby was also runner-up in female G63, with Shona Nicolson (46:42) third. Tom Storey of Killearn FC (41:34) and team-mate Ally Greenhill (41:40) were second and third in male G63. Tom's run also earned

him the special football club prize and bragging rights over his mates, but the team were all heroes as they ran to raise cash for children's hospice charity CHAS.

There were some amazing runs in the age categories, not least that of Norman Baillie (Garscube Harriers) who took the Over-70 male prize in a rapid 48:05. Alistair McDonald (Musselburgh and District) won the Over-60s in 1:01:49, and Kevin Queenan (Bellahouston Road Runners) was the leading male Over-50 with 43:04. Kevin's clubmate, Claire Wharton, won the equivalent female prize in 45:06. Kathryn Scott (Garscube Harriers) won female Over-60 in 47:18, and the ageless Ann Lister (right) of Glasgow Phoenix got one of the biggest cheers of the day when she crossed the line in 1:10:29 to claim the Over-70s award.



But everyone who crossed the finish line was a winner (corny, perhaps, but true). It warmed our hearts to see so many happy faces as our runners came home.

Everything went so well that 2022 will be hard to beat. But still, let's try in 2023. See you all then!

DAVID MCKAY

Our thanks...

We have so many people to thank for the success of this year's event that we've put up a (lengthy) post on our Facebook page to do just that.

But we can't end here without paying tribute to our runners, our marvellous marshals, everyone who volunteered their time to help us, the people of our lovely village, and our sponsors:

Main sponsor Turnip the Beet | Major sponsors West Homes and A Total Clean | The Old Mill | Glengoyne | S. Mac Joinery Solutions (well run, Stuart!) | Strathendrick Decorating and Plastering | Killearn Pharmacy | Killearn Co-op | Killearn Trust | The Burnbrae, Milngavie | Country Cycles Killearn | Luloca, Balfron | Heron House Early Years | Art4You Scotland | Oakwood Garden Centre | SCS Refrigeration and Air Conditioning | Tunnock's | AG Barr

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Curling Sweep Up

At the start of the season in September, members of Strathendrick Curling Club had no idea what to expect in the months ahead. In fact, it has been a remarkably successful season with most events taking place.

The mixed club Spring league had a totally different outcome to the closely fought Autumn league. John Phillip's team with Archie Banks, John O'Neill and Andy McKinnell won with a round to spare. Second place was closely fought, with John Macfarlane's team just beating that of Fiona Glass.

Covid, combined with holidays, reduced numbers in March. The pairs bonspiel, which was played with just four pairs, was won by the undefeated Fiona Glass and Jim Meikle. Unfortunately, the closing bonspiel was cancelled due to a lack of players.

The ladies section completed all their fixtures bar one at the end of February, which was a victim of our old enemy snow, rather than Covid. The Spring league was won easily by the team of Jean Leitch, Viv Taylor, Jane Weir and Annette Rogers.

The ladies managed to play the ladies closing bonspiel for the first time since 2018. The winning team was Katherine Kelsey, Rosemary Miller and Fiona Glass.

In external fixtures, the club was beaten in the province knockout final. In the province Forest Hills 'B' league, despite a poor start in the autumn, Strathendrick finished tied with three other clubs in second place and only one point behind the winners.

The main club held a low-key AGM in April at Balfron Bowling Club, while the ladies finally managed a much-postponed lunch at the Gargunnoch Inn for their AGM. Curlers of the Year were Archie Banks and Anne Lochhead respectively. For the ladies, Gail Pain finished her extended term as president and was succeeded by Heather Burns.

Broadband Update

There is no progress to report regarding BT upgrades for the Branziert or Drumbeg Loan despite various attempts to get visibility of Openreach plans through our MSP and MP. The latest statement from BT indicates that they have plans to deliver ultrafast broadband to 26 million premises, so speeds above the possible FTTC speed of 80Mbps down, by the end of 2026. It's much less clear whether these plans include Killearn. In contrast, the current status visible on the Digital Scotland website of some sample premises in these areas continues to show an upgrade, presumably to FTTC, by the end of September this year.

Meanwhile Euan Shaw continues to install ultrafast broadband in some areas of the village, although progress has been hampered by hardware shortages. If you live in the Branziert, the Trees estate or Kirkhouse Road, and haven't already explored the possibility of upgrading with Euan, then it may be worth contacting him (euanshaw@iLomond.com).

DOUG ASHWORTH
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



Annette Rogers, Norma Thornton and Gill Smith receiving the Opening Bonspiel trophy from Anne Lang at the Ladies Section 2022 AGM

The future for both the mixed club and the ladies section is looking hopeful, as we have gained a number of new players from the start-up club and also the sad demise of other clubs. As a result, we have increased our programmes for the next season. The ladies section has also re-joined Stirling ladies branch as there are now sufficient players to fulfil the commitments.

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 Tony Flisch (860580) or Gill Smith (550726), or please visit our website www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

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Killearn Tennis Club News

We've had a busy few months at the club and lots of news to report.

The club has appointed a new coach, Shaun Tulloch (LTA Level 4). Shaun took up the post in May and is assisted by coach Jamie Martin (LTA level 3), Erin Callaghan (LTA level 2) and Scott Marshall, assistant coach.



L-R: Erin, Scott, Jamie, Shaun

The coaching is proving to be popular with both adults and juniors. If you feel like improving your game or just joining in for some fun, you can contact Shaun at **10outoftennis** or on the KTC website. Coaching is available to both members (reduced rates) and non-members.

We held an Open Day on 15 May, and were astounded, but delighted, that so many people came along. Shaun and his team offered free coaching sessions and it was so popular that not everyone was able to play. However, with the teas/coffees and home baking on offer, most were happy to spectate and enjoy the fun afternoon.

Gill presented our outgoing treasurer, Patsy Hutchison, with an Honorary Membership and a



beautiful bouquet in Wimbledon colours, put together by our fabulous local florists, Endrick Blooms. Patsy has worked tirelessly for the club for too many years to remember, and we hope that she will now have more time to enjoy and play tennis. Thank you, Patsy.

The club offered tea/coffees and delicious home baking at the Horticultural Society plant sale. Thanks to all who supported us on the day. Profits went towards club funds. Surplus cakes were donated to Abbeyfield and were gratefully received.

The club championships are well underway and proving to be great fun. The finals should take place in August and we hope to combine the event with an Open Day for all to come along and enjoy.

The clubhouse is looking very smart, with new signage and scoreboards, almost like a mini Wimbledon!

We are happy to welcome new members. If you would like join our club, please check out our website (killearntennisclub.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.

Best wishes from the committee – Phillip, George, Roni, Laura and Gill.

George McNab 1947 – 2022

George was born in Calderbank where his grandparents lived, but his family had moved to Killearn some time earlier, staying first at Drumtitan Farm and then in the Main Street, and it was here that he lived virtually all his life.



He went to school here and made many life-long friendships here.

With his father, he shared a love of fishing and inherited the skill of playing the mouth organ. When he left school he worked in the local area, first at the sawmill and then at Killearn Hospital. For a time he went into the building trade and then finally set up his own business. Gardening had always been a great interest for him and this became his career. He was a hard-working man with a passion for raising plants – flowers in particular – and the many gardens in the locality he transformed, including his own, earned much admiration.

It was during a stay as a patient in Killearn Hospital that he met Helen, who was to become his wife. They married in 1969, set up home in Killearn and here raised their children – Patricia, Andrew and Gillian, whose sad death at the age of four was a terrible blow to the family. George was very much a home buddy who enjoyed family life, his garden and his great collection of birds – budgies, cockatiels and an African grey parrot, called Murphy.

He and Helen also shared a love of dogs, particularly Lhasa Apsos, which Helen bred; there were always several dogs in the household. In his spare time, George enjoyed a game of darts and once, in the Black Bull, played non-stop for 24 hours in a fund-raising venture.

His contented home life ended suddenly last year when Helen died. Her passing broke his heart and his health, which deteriorated over recent months and eventually necessitated him being admitted to hospital, where his life gradually came to its end. A familiar figure in the village and a caring family man, he is sadly missed by all who were close to him.

BP

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Iain was born in Glasgow to David and Betty Howie. His younger sister Liz completed the family. It was a happy childhood with many large family parties marking special occasions, and camping and caravan holidays in favoured places in Scotland, Comrie being the most frequent destination.

At school, Iain's academic ability became apparent. He was Dux at his primary school and at Cathkin High School he excelled across the curriculum, scoring particularly highly at maths. He was also very musical, a talent inherited from his grandparents. He enjoyed his school days, but also enjoyed being a rebel, growing his hair long when the rules demanded it to be worn short, refusing to use a newly built underpass specially designated for the pupils' safe access to the school, and maintaining his right to make his own decisions!

In 1972, he went on to Glasgow University to read civil engineering, but while his academic record might

seem to have indicated this choice, when at university he soon joined the Cecilian Society, a move that profoundly influenced much of his future life. This society mounted major musical productions annually, and Iain appeared in several of them. He could sing, he could dance and with superb timing, he was a natural comic actor. He was also a brilliant comic writer and with friends he spoof-wrote several TV shows, often with political references of the time. He continued to work with the Cecilian Society long after leaving university and for the newly created Forum Arts Society.

He went from university to work for Motherwell Bridge and then for Britoil which later became BP, spending time on off-shore oil rigs and once needing to be rescued when he fell into Scapa Flow. He then turned to lecturing in civil engineering at Stow College and remained here nearly 30 years, rising to Business Enterprise Manager, in which role he was an international representative for the college and travelled the world. He also took on work as a lecturer at evening classes and was a dedicated mentor for students who worked by day and studied at night.

He was married in 1982 to Audrey, whom he had met through the Cecilian Society, and they settled in Milngavie and there, Gordon and Duncan, their two sons, were born. After some years, Iain separated from his wife, but stayed close to his sons.

Through the Forum Arts Society, Iain met Amanda. A close relationship developed and they set up home together in the west end of Glasgow. The births of two daughters, Lucy and Sophie and a son, Callum, gave Iain a second family. He had a loving relationship with them all and ensured that both sets of his children became one truly blended family, all supporting each other.

In the 1990s, Iain returned to studying and took an Open University arts degree in moral philosophy, music and history of art, and graduated with honours.

In 2002 Iain, Amanda and their family settled in Killearn where Callum was born. Iain joined Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society and was involved in many of their productions. When FADS became UK champions in the One-Act Amateur awards, Iain was also awarded best Amateur Actor in the UK.

In Killearn he joined in community activities, was a member and Company Secretary of KCFC.

Iain's talents were many and various – enthusiastic player of hockey, expert in and teacher of calligraphy, a comedian, musician, philosopher, raconteur, friend of so many. Above all these he was a family man at heart, much loved by and an inspiration to those closest to him. He was a great character – aware of his foibles – but his energy to go on learning and communicating his wide knowledge was immense. From his own low times came an understanding of how human beings can learn to face the problems of life by their own creativity.

His sudden death came as a great shock to all those who had known him, above all his own family.

BP

Bridge by Zorro

Solution to the problem on page 7

East is forced to discard on the second round of Spades. But what to discard?

At the table, East discarded ♥3 and South ducked, with West winning with ♠10 and continuing with another Club forcing out ♣A. The contract at this stage looks doomed with two further Spade losers, a Club and possibly a Diamond. The Heart discard, however, gave South a chance.

South led ♥6 to Dummy's Ace and returned the ♥5, trumping East's ♥Q. Dummy was re-entered with ♦Q and ♥10 led which allowed Declarer to ruff East's ♥K. He was then able to lead ♦3 to Dummy's Ace to play the ♥J and discard the losing ♣5 from his hand. Dummy's last Club could then be ruffed with the ♠Q to make his 10th trick.

A Club would have been a better discard.

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

Ena Brunton McNab 1942 – 2022

Ena was born on the southside of Glasgow to Alexander and Ada Phillips. A little later her brother Ross was born and completed the family. She was educated at Broomlea School in Whitecraigs and, following the family's move to the west end, Park School for Girls, where she showed early academic ability and a gift for making and sustaining lasting friendships.

After leaving school, she went to study medicine at Glasgow University. On her first day of Freshers' Week, she met Bill and there began a life for the two together. A beautiful, ever-lasting, loving relationship of two soul mates. They married in Hyndland a year after Ena's graduation in 1966.

Their first home was the North Lodge of Cameron House on the banks of Loch Lomond. Work required them to move several times in their early married life and they finally settled in Killearn in 1973 with their son, Ross and daughter, Catriona. Ena's medical career saw her rise to be a Consultant Community Paediatrician within Greater Glasgow Health Board. She dedicated her life to helping others, and successfully combined a full-time career with family life and involvement in the community. A regular attender at Killearn Kirk, she was ordained an Elder and served twice as president of the Guild, where her quiet efficiency and caring nature were greatly valued.

As retirement age approached, Ena gave up her professional work early to travel the world with Bill on his many business trips. When Bill sold his business, the couple were able to travel for longer periods of time to their second home in Menorca, where they enjoyed time

and were able to be close to their daughter and her family who were resident there, and their son and his family when they came on holiday. The family – Ross and Anita, Catriona and John, together with five grandchildren – was always of prime importance in Ena's life. In retirement she and Bill 'upsized' to a larger home in order to be able to accommodate the whole family whenever they were all able to visit. Many happy memories were created both here in Killearn and abroad all together.

Notwithstanding her easy approachability and friendliness, Ena was in many ways quite a private person, but one who calmly demonstrated great resilience, especially as she faced the challenges of later years

Ena's Christian faith was an essential part of her life; the diagnosis of her final illness was not known to many as Ena lived her limited time with quiet fortitude. The news of her passing came as a shock and a great sorrow to all who had known her both here in the village and her many friends she had from each stage of her life. Ena, with her radiant smile and natural empathy, is deeply mourned by her devoted family, and the example she left of a good life well lived will remain in the memory of all those lucky to have known her.

CMCG/BP



Michael Todd 1930 – 2022

Mike, as he was known to many, was born in Edinburgh to John and Margaret Todd. His young years were spent with his family, which included his sister, Diana, in Edinburgh, although during the war years they evacuated to the family farm in Legerwood. Mike was educated at Edinburgh Academy and then went on to study engineering at Edinburgh University. He did his National Service in the army where he learned to drive a range of vehicles including armoured trucks and cars, and developed a lasting interest in and love of cars.

His professional career saw him join his father in his consulting engineering company which was then renamed John C. Todd & Son. He travelled throughout Scotland to investigate traffic accidents and often was required to give evidence in court. Later the company merged with Automobile Technical Services and Mike worked with them until 1989.

Mike married Barbara Tucker in 1964; two daughters, Mary and Iona, made up their family.



In 1988 he married June Dawson, mother of Simon and Abi. They moved to Killearn and together enjoyed 27 happy years of marriage.

Mike encouraged June to return to her interest in painting which she did with great success. He entered into the life of the village, made many friends among the golfing enthusiasts and served as an Elder in Killearn Kirk.

He was a gentle, generous and kindly man, a devoted husband, a loving father and stepfather and a proud grandfather of his six grandchildren.

Although quite self-effacing and never seeking attention, he had a gift with words and could tell an entertaining story. His was also the quiet voice of reason and his thoughtful opinions were much respected.

He was bereft after June died in 2015, but he continued life on his own with the help of kind friends and neighbours. When more help was needed, he moved closer to his family in the south of England where his days drew to a peaceful close.

BP

John d'Arcy Conway 1927 – 2022

John was born in Glasgow to Francis and Agnes Conway. He was their only child, but he had a close relationship with a large circle of cousins and enjoyed a happy childhood. His secondary education was at St Aloysius' College where he proved to be both academically very bright and also very adept in technical skills. He went to Glasgow University where he read civil engineering, and the story goes that, when a student, he played a role in the illicit removal of the stone of destiny from Westminster Abbey...

After graduating he went on to enjoy a successful and fulfilling career with some well-known companies, playing a major role in the construction of the Glen Finglas dam, the River Leven barrage works and at Ross Priory, the intake works and coffer dam taking water from Loch Lomond to the Central belt. An enjoyable year was spent on Canna, where, as chief engineer, he oversaw the doubling of the size of the pier to allow CalMac vessels to ferry sheep and cattle to and from the island. Highly regarded by colleagues and clients alike, he was constantly in demand for his skills and went on to provide engineering services to many parts of the world.

John met Pat Linn whilst both were at university; a romance blossomed and they married in 1952. Early in the 1960s they adopted Louise and then Judy to complete their family. Sometime after the early death of Pat in 1982, John was able to renew an old friendship with Joey Boston, also widowed. They married in 1983 and John gained a step-daughter, Joan, but the marriage was short as Joey died in 1986. Widowed for a second time, John enjoyed a happy relationship with Liz Lachlan for many years.

Holidays were an important part of family life with Pat and the girls, and camping or caravanning all over Scotland and sailing around the Western Isles brought much enjoyment and many happy memories.

John's love of travel and adventure began in his

boyhood when he cycled the country. He then progressed to motorcycles and, in his 20s, became Scottish Motorbike Scrambling Champion and aged 75, he acquired a 1967 manufactured Triumph motorbike. When he wrote off his car just before his 90th birthday he acquired the 'Rolls Royce' of electric scooters which enabled him to buzz triumphantly around the village, and to pause and chat companionably to those he met en route.

Earlier in life his greatest love was sailing and his yachts, *Sula* and then *Kirstiona*. He also built a small boat in one of his bedrooms, though he encountered problems when the time came to take the finished craft out of the room – a certain amount of demolition of the house was needed to achieve this, followed by a certain amount of re-construction!

John was also an accomplished mountaineer and angler, a skilled raconteur and a talented musician, with a song for every occasion. He had a wicked sense of fun and took pleasure in playing magical tricks on/for children. His love for his own country was politically expressed by his life-long support of the SNP and his part in founding the party's Strathendrick branch.

Good health and a boundless will to be active enabled him to overcome any difficulties that confronted him, and he conveyed throughout his long life his sense of the things of true importance – his respect for humanity and his love for those closest to him. BP





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Hanni Read 1928 – 2022

Hanni was the eighth of nine children, born in 1928 to Wilhelm and Anna Wassell in Königsberg, originally the ancient capital of Prussia, then part of Germany until it was annexed by Russia after the end of World War II. When the Russians invaded their region, the family fled to Bavaria. In her late teens, Hanni met Raymond Read in Germany when he was serving in the British Army, and they maintained a relationship by correspondence until they were able to join each other and marry in London in 1948.

The couple decided to emigrate to Australia. They settled in Sydney and here, with two daughters, Karen and Vivienne, their family was complete. After some years the marriage came under strain and ended in divorce in the late 1960s, leaving Hanni a single parent at a time when this situation could attract a degree of opprobrium. But she was a woman with strength of character and resilience, and with her lively personality, she seized energetically what life gave to her.

Originally she had trained as a teacher and, when in Australia, she retrained as a registered nurse. Much of her career involved working with adults and children, and often these patients had special needs. Hanni was always dedicated, caring, compassionate and generous with her

time and her love. Her daughters grew up and moved around, and Hanni travelled the world and visited Vivienne, ending finally in the UK where, for the last years of her life, she lived with Vivienne and Gareth in Killearn. She felt at home in Scotland, a country she grew to love.

She was a great lover of the arts. Music brought her joy and a sense of belonging when she sang in a choir in Sydney, and she loved going to concerts. She had a keen eye for beauty and encouraged her nephews, Robert and Peter, to follow their ambitions in pursuing their careers in the arts – one as a painter and one as an actor.

She was a spiritual person with a deep faith, originating in her Lutheran upbringing, and a belief in a life to come. She radiated love and care all her life for those around her. Her high spirits and a bubbling enthusiasm which she successfully shared with those around her characterised her positive approach to life, and left its mark on all who knew her.



BP

Jessie McArthur 1925 – 2022

Jessie was all her life a Killearn girl, born in 1925 into the already large family of Hugh and Mary Cameron. At that time the family was living at 4 The Square, but later moved to 55 Main Street. She was educated at Killearn Primary and Balfron High schools. On leaving school she started work with Stewart the Tailor, a family business, situated where the bank used to be. Mr Stewart was a hard taskmaster and would allow no tea breaks, although on days when he had to make a business trip into Glasgow, his wife would provide tea and biscuits and would enjoy chatting with the working girls... until one day Mr Stewart missed his bus and arrived unexpectedly back at the workroom to catch them at their break. There were no more illicit cups of tea after that!

The hot atmosphere of the workplace often caused Jessie to faint, and she was advised to seek other employment. She went then to work as a housemaid for Dr and Mrs Barclay until, with the outbreak of World War II, she joined the Women's Land Army and worked at Parkhall, where Land Girls replaced the men who had enlisted for the army. Here she worked until 1949, developing a great love of gardening.

The McArthur family, including Hugh, had come in 1939 to live in Killearn. Jessie and Hugh met, romance blossomed and they married in 1949, setting up their first home in Lettreburn. Their daughter Mary was born in 1951. The family moved to Wellgreen in the early 1980s and then to Boquhan in 1996. Happy family holidays were often spent in Millport, cycling round the island, and many trips were also made to Crieff, Hugh's home town,

to visit relatives and see the Games.

Jessie was a dedicated homemaker and it was in her home that she was happiest. As well as caring for Hugh and Mary, she cared also for elderly members of her family and was a considerate and helpful neighbour and friend. She excelled at many types of needlework – sewing, knitting, embroidery, tapestry and crochet – and examples of her work, some of which can be seen in the Kirk, were regularly on display and were very much in demand at the Guild sales, and won awards at the Rural and the Killearn Horticultural shows.

Jessie played an active role in the life of Killearn Kirk, at one time singing in the choir, as well as being secretary, and then president, of the Guild. She was awarded a certificate to mark her 50 years of Guild membership.

For many years Jessie was also a member of the WRVS, taking part in their activities such as distributing Meals on Wheels, working in a clothing store in Lennox town, helping run a playgroup for children at Lennox Castle Hospital, and cooking at a children's summer camp at Killearn Leisure Centre.

In later years, as her health declined, she became more withdrawn from community life, and this was accentuated by Hugh's death in 2018. Latterly, she required additional care and moved in 2020 to Blane field House Care Home, where she received excellent attention. Her long life came to an end earlier this year, and with her passing some of the history of Killearn life goes with her. But affectionate memories of her will remain.

BP

PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD

Set by PeeWit

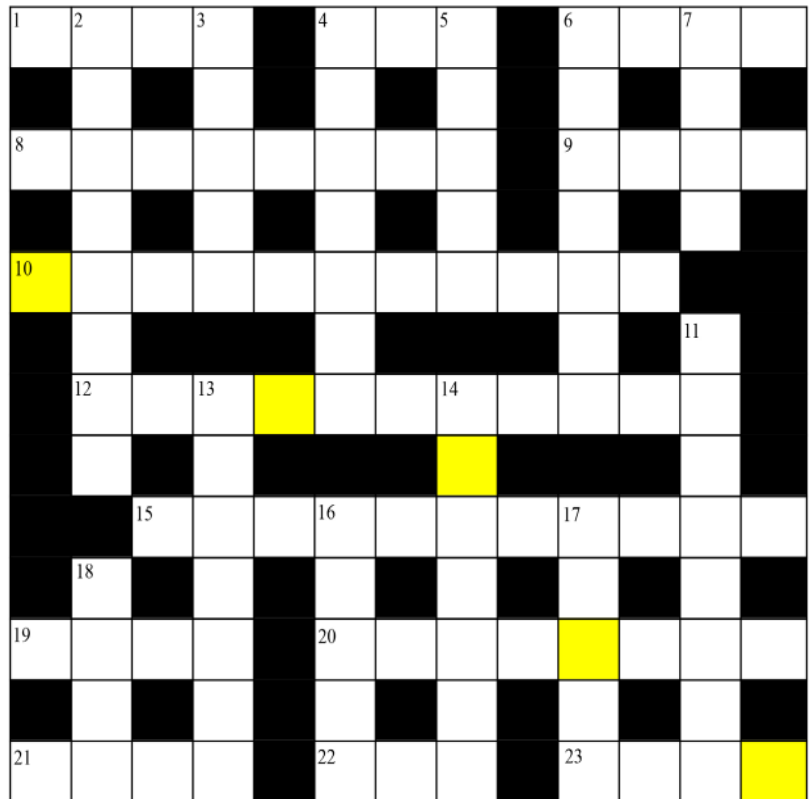
Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher to spend at the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would like to thank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

ACROSS

- 1 Not so many apples sold inside (4)
- 4 Close space before start of day (3)
- 6 Food that sounds just right (4)
- 8 Reveal it about member of the family (8)
- 9 It could be vile to be this (4)
- 10 Make a lot of mother's young salmon before Italian leader (4-7)
- 12 Oh no! Seducer was found by this location device (4,7)
- 15 No pigtail in this artwork (3,8)
- 19 Get feet dancing at this event (4)
- 20 Concealed near short toy bear (8)
- 21 Lots running in outside trainers (4)
- 22 Family member sounds like a star (3)
- 23 Direction in which to be astride (4)

DOWN

- 2 Raised up and happy when day WW2 ended came up (8)
- 3 Photos made me snooze in seconds(5)
- 4 Exiles made by mixed-up regimes (7)
- 5 Fear of resistance enters when late (5)
- 6 Cheated like sheep (7)
- 7 A bird that helps you on the stairs (4)
- 11 Royal lady spins half a record around (8)
- 13 She will inherit when he rises in confusion (7)
- 14 Union takes credit for a mythical creature (7)
- 16 Ancient people have Charlie in the mines (5)
- 17 Subject of those people on the start of essay (5)
- 18 Old Japanese fighter means nothing (4)



Winner of the last crossword: David Pettigrew, Killearn

The letters in the coloured squares diagonally name someone who is noted for 15 across. Solve the crossword and find the name. 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 alphabetical crossword: Assesses; Bedsides; Choked; Driver; Educates; Failures; Grey squirrel; Head; Inside; Japonica; Knot grass; Lazzeretto; Meteorites; Needless; Ozone; Plectrum; Quin; Redressing; Software; Stars and Stripes; Troop carrier; Utmost; Vinery; Wiser; Xema; Yvonne; Zany.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORDSEARCH

You should find 10 words in the word search grid that are **flowers you might see in the garden and in the wild.**

Eight flowers are: *Carnation, Daisy, Geranium, Lavender, Marigold, Orchid, Snowdrop, Tulip.*

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

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

Instructions for sending it are given in the box below.

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry – it's easy! Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win. Email your solution(s) to peewit@kfc.co.uk, or drop it in the postbox outside the Village Hall. Remember to give your name, address and a contact phone number before **31 August 2022.**

Bluebell, Carnation, Daisy, Geranium, Lavender, Marigold, Orchid, Snowdrop, Tulip, Violet

Bluebell
Carnation
Daisy
Geranium
Lavender
Marigold
Orchid
Snowdrop
Tulip
Violet

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

Winner of the last Children's Competition, Arthur Latchin, aged 6, Killearn

Catch The Pigeon

On the evening of Friday 1 April 2022, there was no fooling this young female sparrowhawk as it caused quite a commotion in Lampson Road.

Having made a brutal kill, it proceeded to perform audaciously in front of local wildlife paparazzi for several minutes before I myself was alerted to the grizzly scene. Already rushing out to collect pizza for dinner, I grabbed my camera – and was instantly transformed into a scoop-seeking shutterbug.

The unfortunate victim? A wood pigeon. It had probably been feeding in one of the gardens or swallowing gravel from the road (something that pigeons do to aid digestion). By the time I arrived, however, it was an ex-pigeon, its still warm corpse firmly pinned to the pavement by the sparrowhawk's razor-sharp talons.

There were downy feathers everywhere as the hawk expertly plucked its victim before feasting voraciously on its exposed flesh. As it filled its crop with pigeon breast, it kept a beady and intimidating yellow eye focused on onlookers as if to say, 'Don't dare come any closer!' It certainly had no intention of being chased off or letting go of its prey, and through this feeding frenzy had already tolerated much closer approach than its natural shyness would usually allow. On one occasion, as a car began turning into the driveway the birds were blocking, the hawk simply dragged the pigeon a few feet along the



pavement to allow access, while continuing to feed away!

As well as being incredibly skilled fliers and ambush predators, sparrowhawks are truly beautiful birds. Like other raptors, females are larger and heavier than males, though a wood pigeon is at the top end of what a female bird will normally catch and dispatch. The

two sexes also differ in plumage. Males are strikingly blue-grey above with rufous cheeks and barring on the underparts. Females lack the rufous below and the bluish tones above, but are still very smart. Young birds, like this one, are darker brown with coarser barring.

This was nature in the raw – a stark reminder of what life is all about for other creatures. After taking a few pictures, my own hunger compelled me to leave the hawk enjoying its 'street food' and go and fetch our pizzas!

MARTIN CULSHAW



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Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 650 rented houses and flats. Around 40 of these become available for rent each year. At present we have properties in the following communities:

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Balfroon	Drymen	Kinkochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Garimore	Locheamhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killcarn, Balmaha, Croftamie, Kippen and Drymen. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future. For further information about us and a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

Rural Stirling Housing Association
Stirling Road, Doone FK16 6AA

01786 841101
enquiries@rsha.org.uk
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Anyone wishing to contribute to the winter edition of the *Courier* is reminded that it will be distributed on 12 November 2022.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 23 September 2022.

Contact: Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 23 September 2022.

Please send them to:

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