



ISSUE 39

WINTER 2017

£1

Season's  
greetings  
to all our  
readers



# Noticeboard

- 21 Nov **Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch** workshop 10.30am–3.30pm. Talk by Jonathan Brown, 'Japanese Embroidery' 2pm. Kirk Halls.  
**Killearn Kirk Guild** meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Bethany Trust.
- 23 Nov **Killearn Kirk** messy play. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.30am for ages 0–5 years.  
**Killearn Kirk Guild** presbytery meeting. Kirk Hall, 2pm. Projects update followed by afternoon tea.  
**Killearn Primary School Fundraising Committee** lecture in aid of the school and UNICEF by Professor Sir Tom Devine, "'It wisnae us!': Forgetting and Remembering Scotland's Slavery Past'. Killearn Village Hall, doors open 7pm, lecture at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Hewitt and Aker, price £7/£5 concession.  
**Drymen & District Local History Society** talk by Murray Cook on 'Cambuskenneth and its history, the masons' marks and the excavations of the harbour'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. [www.drymen-history.org.uk](http://www.drymen-history.org.uk)
- 27 Nov **Strathendrick Rotary Club** meeting. Club Room, Killearn Village Hall, 6.30pm prompt, thereafter second and fourth Monday of the month. Contact Ian Dickie (550639, [patogian@hotmail.com](mailto:patogian@hotmail.com)).
- 30 Nov – 2 Dec and 7–9 Dec **FAD's pantomime** *Snow White*. Menzies Hall, Fintry. Thursday–Saturday, 7.30pm; matinee Saturday, 2pm. Adults £8, children £5, one free ticket for groups of 10 or over. Tickets from Killearn Pharmacy, Balfron Library, Fintry Sports Club, phone 01360 551076 or online at [tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk](mailto:tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk).
- 1 Dec **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *Some Like it Hot*. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.  
**Killearn Primary School** Christmas Fair. Killearn Village Hall, 6pm–9pm.
- 2 Dec **Killearn Kirk Guild** Christmas Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon. Baking stall and sales table.
- 3 Dec **Killearn Kirk** Communion Service. 10.30am.
- 5 Dec **Killearn Kirk Guild** meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Bits and pieces with Jean Woodburn.
- 7 Dec **Strathendrick Singers** Christmas Concert. Gartmore Village Hall, 7pm. Tickets at the door or from choir members. Refreshments provided. Contact Judith Neil ([secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk)).
- 9 Dec **Killearn Country Market** Christmas Bonanza with Strathendrick Singers. Killearn Village Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ([gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk)).
- 13 Dec **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 14 Dec **Killearn Kirk** messy play. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.30am for ages 0–5 years.
- 14 Dec **Killearn Kirk Guild** Christmas Lunch with Thursday Club. Entertainment organised by Anne McKay. Kirk Hall, 1.30pm for 2pm.
- 15 Dec **Strathendrick Singers** Christmas Concert, Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm. *Wenceslas* by Chilcott and excerpts from the *Messiah* as well as the usual favourites. Tickets at the door or from choir members. Refreshments provided. Contact Judith Neil ([secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk)).
- 17 Dec **Killearn Kirk** Lessons and Carols, 10.30am.
- 24 Dec **Killearn Kirk** Christmas Eve service, 11.15pm. Carol singing followed by watchnight service.
- 25 Dec **Killearn Kirk** family Christmas Day service, 10am. Children are invited to bring along one of their presents.
- 25 – 26 Dec **Killearn Health Centre** closed. If you require medical advice, contact NHS 24 on 111.
- 1–2 Jan **Killearn Health Centre** closed.
- 8 Jan **Monday Music** spring term starts. Small Menzies Hall, Fintry, 9.15am and Killearn Kirk Hall, 11am. For details regarding age groups and availability, contact Clare Cushing ([claremondaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:claremondaymusic@gmail.com) or 550166).
- 16 Jan **Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch** workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Tuition by members.  
**Killearn Kirk Guild** meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Trossachs Search and Rescue with Stuart Ballantyne.
- 17 Jan **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 25 Jan **Drymen & District Local History Society** illustrated talk by Douglas Annan, 'Old Glasgow through the lens'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. [www.drymen-history.org.uk](http://www.drymen-history.org.uk)
- 2 Feb **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *Tea with Mussolini*. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
- 6 Feb **Killearn Kirk Guild** meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. 'Traveller's Tales' with Nick Hawkins. Visiting Guilds, Bring and Buy.
- 16 Feb **Strathendrick Film Society** showing *The Apartment*. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
- 20 Feb **Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch** workshop 10.30am–3.30pm. Kirk Halls. Visitors welcome. £4 for full day, £3 for half day.
- 21 Feb **Killearn Community Council** meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 22 Feb **Killearn Kirk Guild** meeting with Thursday Club. Kirk Hall, 2pm. Fine Fettle.  
**Drymen & District Local History Society** illustrated talk by Rob Layden, 'The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum in Stirling Castle'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. [www.drymen-history.org.uk](http://www.drymen-history.org.uk)

## Noticeboard continued

3 Mar	<b>Strathendrick Singers</b> Musical Coffee Morning. Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon. Home baking, musical entertainment and much more.
6 Mar	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. ‘Caring for Bolivia’, Juliet Cramb-Low.
9 Mar	<b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> Whist Drive. Killearn Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Entry £2 at the door including refreshments.
16 Mar	<b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> showing <i>Fences</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
17 Mar	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> Spring Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon.
20 Mar	<b>Embroiderers’ Guild Strathendrick Branch</b> workshop 10.30am–3.30pm. Talk by Carole Storm, ‘To fabric and beyond’. 2pm. Kirk Halls. <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> AGM with Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
21 Mar	<b>Killearn Community Council</b> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
22 Mar	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> Presbytery AGM. Kirk Hall, 2pm. <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> illustrated talk by Burns Shearer, ‘The Comet, the Clyde and the Commerce’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a>
25 Mar	<b>Strathendrick Singers</b> Easter Concert, featuring Faure’s <i>Requiem</i> and Rutter <i>Magnificat</i> . Killearn Kirk Hall, time to be confirmed.
27 Mar	<b>Killearn Golden Years’ Club</b> Annual Dinner. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm.

If you have dates of events for the Spring 2018 issue of the Noticeboard (mid March until the end of August), please contact Heather McArthur (550137; [heather.mcarthur@virgin.net](mailto:heather.mcarthur@virgin.net)).

*Killearn Courier*  
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Futures Company**



Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 10 March 2018.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 26 January 2018. Contact: Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by 26 January 2018.

Please send them to: 36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email: [courier@kfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kfc.co.uk)

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The *Courier* wishes all its readers and advertisers a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2018.

## Editorial

Another year has flown by and here we are, nearly in December, wondering why we haven’t had time to finish a lot of the things we said we were going to start back in January. But I hope you’ll make time to sit back and read our Christmas issue of the *Courier*.

There are stacks of interesting and informative articles, which I know you will enjoy. I would particularly recommend a look at the centre pages. In a change from previous Christmas formats, two of our Cubs, Jamie and Kim, took the idea of their ‘Christmas favourites’ and enthusiastically volunteered to tackle the centre spread. Combined with our layout team’s skills, it is cleverly produced – informative, humorous and eye-catching. We’ve been lucky over the years with our Cubs – their insights and thought-provoking articles have all added a bit of ‘edge’, to quote one of our Group. Many thanks to them all, past and present.

Thank you, also, to our advertisers and our volunteer deliverers, as well as members of the hard-working *Courier* Group. Last, but not least, thanks to our readers and contributors who continue to make the *Courier* the great local news magazine that it is.

On a different tack, I often wonder how many of the young people who get off the Balforn High School buses in Killearn volunteer with, or are members of, youth organisations such as Scouts and Guides, groups which were pretty active in the village not so long ago. Indeed, there was a time when these organisations were well supported by parent volunteers, not only as leaders, but in all sorts of capacities. Sadly, this is no longer the case and the Killearn Boys’ Bridage company has been lost altogether.

So why not make 2018 your Year of Volunteering? Only a couple of hours a week makes a huge difference to all kinds of activities in the village. Who knows, you might start in January and be anticipating the Christmas party in December.

Have a great Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

Ian

## Thanks for Courier Copies

All Killearn Archive wishes to thank everyone who volunteered back copies of the *Courier*. We now have all we need to make up a set. However, if anyone has any old copies of the *Killearn Community Courier*, we would be grateful for those.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

## Fox – Berry

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Jessica Fox from Killearn and Richard Berry from Richmond, London, were married on 15 July 2017 at St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews, followed by a reception at the Cow Shed, Crail. The couple met while students at St Andrews University and now live in London.

## Pell – Morris

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Lindsay Pell and Christopher Morris were married on 17 September in an old grain mill in Orkney. A celebration was held a few days later in Killearn Village Hall. The couple split their time between the Highlands and Glasgow, where Lindsay is a senior producer in music at the BBC and Chris, formerly Professor of Archaeology at Glasgow University, in retirement is embarking on a second career as a singer.

## Crawford – Chesham

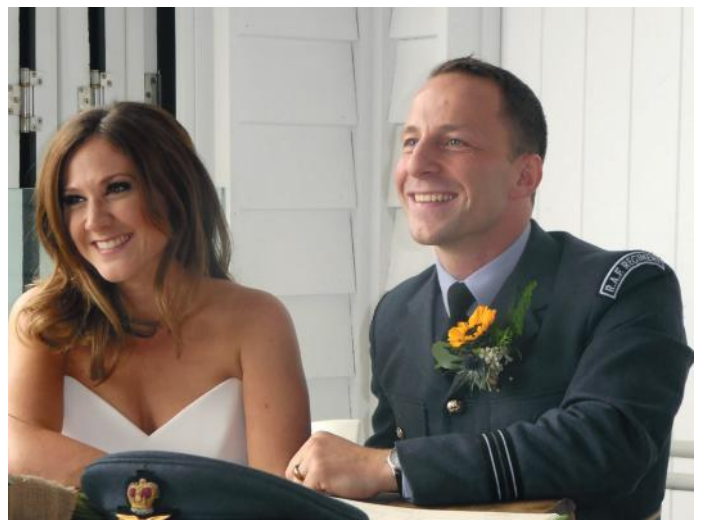
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Ross Chesham and Stephanie Crawford were married at Monachyle Mhor on the banks of Loch Voil on 6 May 2017. Steph, originally from Killearn, is a paediatric nurse working in theatres at the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow. Ross, from Callander, is working part-time as a physiotherapist while studying for his PhD at Stirling University. They are now living in Aberfoyle, working hard refurbishing their first home together.

## Lay-Flurrie – Royston

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Graeme Royston originally from Killearn, married Rachel Lay-Flurrie at the Tunnels in Ilfracombe on 24 September 2017. Rachel, a surgical veterinary nurse, was brought up in Cyprus where her parents both served in the RAF. Graeme is a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF Regiment based in Bury St Edmunds.

## Frew – Bednarski

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Katy Frew and Kyle Bednarski were married in Killearn Kirk on Saturday, 12 August 2017 by the Rev. Roddy Hamilton. Katy grew up in Killearn and Kyle in Helensburgh. The couple live and work in Oban where Katy is an outdoor nursery practitioner and Kyle an assistant store manager.

## Farewell Tribute to Lee Messeder

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More than 120 members of the congregation joined Rev. Lee Messeder and his family on Sunday, 21 August for his last service, after seven years as parish minister. Carole Young, Session Clerk, took Lee through his life in the ministry in the ‘definition of plants and flowers’, outlining his many attributes as a minister. He received many gifts along with a framed photograph of Killearn taken by Norman McNab. The service was followed by an enjoyable lunch, giving everyone the opportunity to say goodbye.

Lee and his wife, Evelyn, soon settled into life in the village after their move from Kelty in Fife. In November 2010, Lee was preached into his new charge by his father-in-law and from there he continued good service in the community of Killearn. God’s calling brought Lee to Killearn where he has inspired the members of the congregation with his preaching and encouraged them to think more deeply about how we live and apply Biblical teaching to our circumstances. Lee initiated prayer breakfast-get-togethers and reading/book groups, enabling members of the church and community to come together for fellowship. He supported the different activities and the work that Kirk Session members and

## Wilkinson – Wright

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Martyn Wright and Anna Wilkinson were married at Glencourse House in Edinburgh on Saturday, 23 September. Martyn works off shore in survey and Anna, who hails from the capital, works for the Royal Zoological Society at Edinburgh Zoo, close to where they are now living.

the congregation have been part of within the community.

Retirement will not be an easy transition, especially when his ill-health has brought it about sooner than he or anyone else expected. As a Kirk and community we pray that as he moves forward to this next stage of his life, he will know God’s blessing and direction for a new beginning, and experience improved health.

We wish Lee and Evelyn good wishes as they move into the next stage of their lives, enjoying time with their children and grandchildren, and continuing to enjoy their own interests and activities.



CAROLE YOUNG, SESSION CLERK

In July and August this year we have seen much activity for the residents and also some changes among the Friends of Abbeyfield Committee.

On Friday, 14 July, the residents and the Friends of Abbeyfield held a leaving tea for Mike Menzies who has been a very active and dedicated Chairman of the Friends for the last several years, giving much of his time over the years. He will be sorely missed by all. Mike and his wife, Sue, were presented with champagne and flowers as a thank you. All the residents and Friends wish them both a happy time in their new home in Broughty Ferry.

The Friends have organised two outings over the summer. The first was on 13 July for lunch at Katy Rogers in Fintry, where several residents enjoyed a delicious lunch along with some of the Friends. The second was to Benview at Ward Toll where four residents enjoyed lunch, followed by a scenic drive around Lake of Menteith and the nearby countryside.

On Saturday, 22 July, the Friends held a Musical Afternoon and Tea in Abbeyfield House. A trio comprising flutist Shona Gidney, violinist Harvey Pizey and pianist Roz McGowan provided musical entertainment which was enjoyed by all.

A successful Strawberry Tea was held in July to which family and friends were invited. This event was organised wholly by Barbara Roberts, the resident Abbeyfield Housekeeper. A magnificent



Representatives of The Friends of Abbeyfield with the cheque presented by Barbara Roberts following the Strawberry Tea

sum of £340 was raised through the tea and the raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses. This donation is most gratefully accepted and contributes towards future activities and outings for the residents. The cheque was handed over to the Friends by Barbara at an impromptu Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 2 July, and the Friends thanked her for all her work.

On Sunday, 27 August, following the monthly in-house church service, there was an afternoon tea to say farewell to

Lee Messeder and wish him well on his retiral. At the end of August, three of the Friends joined the residents at Abbeyfield for high tea where everyone enjoyed delicious home baking supplied by the Friends.

The residents have continued to enjoy and participate in the fortnightly 'news reviews' which cover a broad range of topical subjects. There are several more events being planned for the months leading up to Christmas.

LINDA ASTLEY-JONES

## art4you Scotland supporting Cancer Research UK

Following this year's successful summer exhibition in late August, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) received a generous donation of £1,212 from art4you.

Since 2012, this popular art school in Balfron Station has organised seven exhibitions supporting various local charities, and this year the proceeds were donated to a special choice of tremendous importance to Claudia and Ewen Duncan, owners of art4you Scotland.

Claudia was diagnosed with breast cancer at the end of 2016 and has recently finished her final chemotherapy. Claudia said, 'We want to give back and support the important work Cancer Research UK is doing and sending a positive message to people affected by cancer. Art is our passion and it has given me and my family the strength to face this year's challenging journey. The support from our students and my own art practice was an invaluable part of my recovery.'

Janet Rutherford, chair of CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee, attended the opening evening and spoke with some of the many visitors, outlining the vital work undertaken by the charity and its dependence on continuing donations, since it receives no government funding.

art4youScotland exhibited paintings, drawing and prints by Ewen and Claudia Duncan, Frances Douglas, Lorna MacKay and many of the art school students. Calligraphy artist Iain Howie gave free taster workshops.

Ewen Duncan said, 'We are delighted that with the help of our different art courses we can create enough artwork to open this year's exhibition and support the important work of Cancer Research UK. The quality of the work on sale and the inspiration we pass on to our students reflects our mission: Help people to become better artists, feed the soul and enjoy the process.'

# Rotapeeps – Here We Go Again!

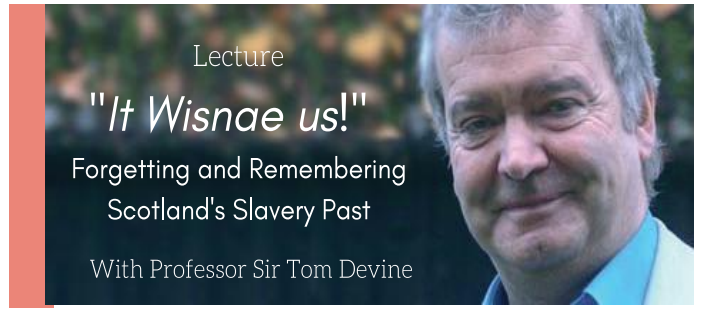
This year's P7 pupils at Killearn Primary School, all 17 of them, have unanimously decided to follow their predecessors and form a club for the year 2017/18.

Their officers – president, vice-president, secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer – were voted in after an election campaign and an in-house ballot.

They are initially going to raise money for Children in Need and have already come up with all sorts of ideas, so they will be looking for plenty of support in their efforts to raise money for charity.

The photo below shows the new Rotapeeps president with the Strathendrick Rotary Club President, Ian Dickie, and the rest of the class.

TID



Lecture

## "It Wisnae us!"

Forgetting and Remembering  
Scotland's Slavery Past

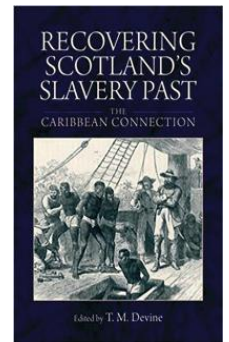
With Professor Sir Tom Devine

Killearn Primary School is thrilled to announce that Scotland's leading historian **Professor Sir Tom Devine** will be delivering this lecture and it will be chaired by one of Scotland's best known and most read journalists, **Kevin McKenna**. The event is open to all so please join us for what promises to be a fascinating night.

**THUR 23RD NOV**  
**2017 7.30PM**  
(Doors from 7pm)  
**PRICE £7 / £5**  
**CONCESSION**

**KILLEARN VILLAGE**  
**HALL, KILLEARN**

For a very long time it was believed that Scotland had little or no involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. Scotland's preeminent historian Professor Sir Tom Devine discusses recent research, which shows that cosy assumption to be based on myth rather than reality. He also considers why the harsh truth of the Scottish role in slavery has been lost to history until the last few years.



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Hewitt & Aker Deli, Killearn & [www.itwisnaeus.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.itwisnaeus.eventbrite.co.uk)

All funds raised from ticket sales will go to Killearn Primary School and UNICEF



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[www.theoldmillkillearn.co.uk](http://www.theoldmillkillearn.co.uk)



## MG TC Revisited

The 'T' series MG first appeared in 1936 with the last one being built in 1955, but many changes were made on the way. The TC followed the TA and TB, and was the first MG sports car to be built after World War II. Launched in 1945, it was slightly wider than its predecessors, giving more room in the cockpit, but in appearance was very similar to those produced pre-war. Just over 10,000 TCs were produced until production ended in 1950, and the model was succeeded first by the TD and finally by the TF. In 1955, the traditional MG square-rigged styling was abandoned with the introduction of the svelte MG 'A', to keep up with more modern contemporaries.

The TC was a very significant and popular model, and many were exported to the United States. During the war, US servicemen stationed in Britain had their first taste of driving the MG marque and loved their handling and precision compared with the American cars of the time. After the war the love affair between MG and American drivers blossomed, especially with the advent of the left-hand drive version of the TD – production almost tripled. (The TC was only available in right-hand drive.)

The construction of the TC was very simple: a steel box-frame ladder chassis with half elliptic springs front and rear and a live rear axle. The engine was a 1250cc XPAG four-cylinder engine fitted with twin SU carburetors producing 54bhp and a top speed of 78mph, with 0–60 taking about 23 seconds. The bodywork was all steel over an ash frame, a process very similar to the one employed by Morgan to this day. With its lively performance and worm-and-nut steering together with



the short throw gear stick and stopping power provided by drum brakes, this was a delight to drive. All this was available at launch for the princely sum of £480.

The TC featured still belongs to one of the members of the Strathendrick Classic Car Club and was the very first car featured in the 2008 Spring edition of the *Killlearn Courier*. It is a well known sight in the vicinity and has covered several hundred miles, taking part in many Club runs since its first appearance in the *Courier*. The owner has had this car for 43 years which equates to 63 per cent of its entire life, having acquired it in an almost scrap condition and bringing it up to the excellent standard that it is today.

At least two other members of the club have owned a TC at some time in their lives, something they have in common with the Duke of Edinburgh, who owned one in his bachelor days. Other notable TC owners were Clark Gable and the racing driver Phil Hill.

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The Strathendrick Classic and Sports Car Club has had another busy season, and now that autumn has arrived the committee are compiling an interesting winter programme of evening meetings.



These meetings are now taking place at the Club's new venue – Ross Priory – and their first meeting at the new location took place on Wednesday, 15 November.

The late summer run took place on Tuesday, 12 September, with a run to the Elgin Hotel, Charleston near Dunfermline for lunch. The run started at Ballat crossroads in fine weather with a coffee stop at the Puttery adjacent to Tulliallan Golf Club, a popular stop renowned for its excellent home baking. The touring programme ended with the annual late autumn run to Mhor 84 for lunch on Wednesday, 18 October.

Unfortunately the Balfroon Bash was cancelled due to bad weather. The Club was due to follow the parade up the Main Street in Balfroon with their classic cars assembling in Donaldson Park for display. It was also planned to have the racing car simulator which was developed by our member Doug Ashworth and provides a very realistic experience for would-be racing drivers to sample. Hopefully this will appear at next year's Bash.

The Club is in good heart with a membership of over 40 like-minded people who all have an interest in classic cars in particular and motoring in general. Anyone interested in joining the club, and you don't have to own a Classic to qualify, should contact secretary Robin Johnston by email ([robertjohnston432@btinternet.com](mailto:robertjohnston432@btinternet.com)).

The next evening meeting and meal will be at Ross Priory on Tuesday, 12 December, 6.45pm for 7.30pm. Members and their partners will be entertained by Norma and Bob Gillespie with their Annual Christmas Grand Quiz.

MM



Killlearn's Swiss cousin Branchiosaurus Helvetica sighted in Saas Fee. (For a recap, see our Summer 2017 issue.)

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## Fibre Broadband Update



The latest information is that the R100 programme contracts to supply everyone with 30Mbps download speed will not go out until early 2018. This means that work won't start until late 2018. However, funds have been returned to extend the previous programme through Gainshare which will allow further communities or premises to be connected. The downside is that we will continue to be in the dark about where and when this will happen.

Locally, Auchengillan Outdoor Centre was supplied with a fast internet service by wireless from Killearn over the summer. The Centre, owned by Clyde Scouts, hosts many large events including a recent International Jamboree and brings large parties of youngsters to this part of the world. Thanks to the efforts of Killearn Broadband Group, Abbeyfield Scotland and two local IT companies, a Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) system provided download speeds of up to 180Mbps and upload speeds of up to 50 Mbps. The Auchengillan project only became viable in April 2017 when appropriate fibre-based connectivity became available in Killearn.

A further extension of FWA for other premises on long lines has been established, and the ability to supply other premises is being explored. This would mean premises away from the centre of local villages, currently poorly served, wouldn't have to wait for the unknown timescales involved with Digital Scotland improvement programme. Potential take-up of such a service is currently being explored on the southern side of Killearn and an extension to the current system may also be possible to premises near Auchengillan. A separate group of premises are currently being connected in a similar way and will go live during October. Exploratory talks are getting underway to see if outlying premises in Fintry can also be supplied in this way.

The Blairessen developers, meanwhile, are planning to provide FTTP connections to their new-build properties that will offer the potential for super-fast connections.

Remember you can check the status of your own line through the WhereandWhen pages of the BT Openreach or Digital Scotland websites. Don't forget the Digital Scotland 'Better Broadband Scheme' provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps. See the Killearn Community Council website for specific links ([www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)).

DOUG ASHWORTH  
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



## Firewood for Sale

Forthvale Contractors  
tel: 01360 440294  
mobile: 07890 331702  
[drew@forthvale.co.uk](mailto:drew@forthvale.co.uk)



## Telephone Scams

The scammers are back! Numerous people have reported getting cold telephone callers trying to 'help' them. The usual bogus ones pretending to be a bank, BT and Microsoft are still there, but this time they are accompanied by people purporting to represent Apple, various power companies or even the local council.

All of them will tell you that there has been some problem with your service, and offer to help or even give you a refund. They always give a story that sounds plausible, but this is all part of the scam to lull you into giving them your bank and/or credit card details.

Don't fall for it. Hang up. None of these legitimate organisations would cold call you. If you can, get the caller's phone number using 1471, and report it to Trading Standards on 01786 404040, which is the main number for Stirling Council, or 01786 443322.

DOUG ASHWORTH

## KPS Christmas Fair



Killearn Primary School  
Christmas Fair  
Friday December 1st  
6-9pm



Killearn Village Hall- Shopping, crafts, crepes

A fabulous evening of Christmas shopping with stalls for every taste including Stella and Dot, Lochside Living, Designer Cupcakes Company, Love Bite Dog Treats, and many more. Please pop along and support Killearn Primary School, visit Santa in his Grotto, snack on a crêpe and get some fabulously original gifts.

Summary January to September 2017 for Killearn									
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Highest Temp	11.3	10.1	18.5	15.7	27.1	26.5	25.3	20.3	18.2
Lowest Temp	-6.0	-2.7	-2.4	-2.1	1.5	7.5	6.1	5.9	3.3
Mean Temp	4.8	5.3	6.8	7.8	11.9	13.0	13.8	13.4	11.7
Days Below Freezing	13	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	33.0	29.0	27.0	25.0	20.0	17.0	16.0	16.0	15.0
Monthly Rain	37.0	131.6	84.6	15.8	61.6	149.8	137.4	170.0	102.8
Most Rain in 24 hrs	7.8	17.0	14.6	6.4	12.8	22.6	15.2	15.2	18.4
Days without Rain	13	5	6	19	19	12	7	7	11
Cumulative Rainfall	37.0	158.6	223.2	269.0	330.6	480.4	617.8	787.8	890.6

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

After a fine spring, with record low rainfall in April and early May, our summer really deteriorated. August was the wettest month of the year so far, and both July and August were cool months.

In addition, a lack of sunshine was a very notable feature of our summer with our district well below normal for the peak holiday months.

Our rain originated mainly from two forms of clouds: stratus, which are layer clouds (coming from the same source as the word 'stratified'), and nimbostratus, meaning rain-bearing layer clouds. These occur when relatively large areas of moist air from the Atlantic rise gently in a stable atmosphere to a level where condensation forms.

The lifting of the air mass is the result of an incoming frontal system encountering a large land mass, i.e. a mountain range.

The stratus clouds tend to produce drizzle rather than heavy rain. Nimbostratus clouds are the culprits when copious amounts of rain fall. They can form a grey, gloomy blanket that can last all day.

In the photographs (right), you can see that the nimbostratus clouds are much darker as the cloud droplets are larger and so reflect less sunlight.

TOM RENFREW



Stratus or layer clouds over Buchanan Castle golf course



Nimbostratus clouds over Buchanan Castle golf course

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## You don't need to be an expert!

Do you enjoy sewing, embroidering or the lovely feel and colours of cloth? Do you like having a good natter with friendly people and seeing the sort of stitching that they are doing? Would you like to meet some of the people who produced the beautiful panel in the Kirk Hall entrance?

The Strathendrick Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild meets in Killearn Kirk Halls on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, then between January (depending on the weather) and April, with an outing in May.

This year we have been celebrating the 40th anniversary of our branch meeting in Killearn. We started life in the Old Church Hall and then moved to the bright and airy New Church Halls.

Drymen Library hosted our annual exhibition in March. It was a retrospective, showing how members' embroidery has evolved over the years. Visitors to the library vote for the piece they like best each year, and we were delighted that this year, the Friendship Quach was won by Jean Denny, who is now too frail to attend our meetings. The next Drymen Library Exhibition will be held from 22 March to 10 April 2018. Come along and cast your vote.

The Old Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch (did I say that our membership is far reaching?) provided a new venue for 'One Red Stitch', an exhibition showing recent work by members. To celebrate our ruby year, each piece incorporated at least one red stitch.

At this year's Killearn Horti Show we were proud to see the sunflower banner displayed. It was designed by our members and stitched with the help of more than 100 people in the village.

Stitching isn't only for Guild members. 'Fun with Fabrics' activities are organised for school-age children in various venues, usually local libraries, several times a year. Look out for information for November/December activities on flyers around Killearn.

Ongoing projects this session include working with well-known textile artist Malcolm Lochhead to produce a wall hanging for the entrance hall of the Oncology Department in Vale of Leven Hospital.

But you don't have to be an expert! If you would like to learn more skills – or just learn something new – the branch organises classes. The Guild's Scottish Region also runs a Summer School in Stirling each August.

Drop in some Tuesday and you'll be made very welcome. To find out more, visit [killearnkirk.org.uk](http://killearnkirk.org.uk) and click on Groups and Clubs or email Lyn Dunachie ([lyn.dunachie@uwclub.net](mailto:lyn.dunachie@uwclub.net)) to receive a copy of the branch's brochure by post or email.

LYN DUNACHIE

Above from top: Cutting the 40th anniversary cake; the sunflower banner for Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society



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## Gifts for All

Although present buying is very much part of autumn as Christmas appears on the horizon, it is also an all-year-round business. Apart from birthdays happening all the time for which we have to buy stuff, we are also implored to give to various charities throughout the year, witness the number of large plastic bags that come through the mail box asking for our contributions. And every club event seems to have a raffle to which one is invited to donate, and indeed to buy back the donations.

As a novice to the game of bingo, I was particularly fortunate at the Golden Years Bingo Night by achieving the first full house and receiving an appropriate prize, and then winning again in the raffle. There were two things about that evening that I particularly remember. The first was the number of prizes donated by local businesses, demonstrating a laudable generosity. We are lucky to have them so near and so willing to support village causes. Their gifts are much appreciated.

The second thing I remember about that evening was the action taking place at the front of the church when we emerged from the church hall at the back. Filming was under way in the church garden, and David Walliams was chatting in a friendly fashion to the children at the gate. Quite a sensation in our rural retreat.

Autumn is also the season for birthdays in our family – we have six birthdays in seven weeks, so we have to keep our wits about us. Not only is it getting harder to think of what to give, but no sooner do we sort out the birthdays than we have to do it all over again for Christmas. I can see why grandparents look forward to the day when all their descendants want is cash. On the other hand, everyone loves a parcel. Sometimes they misfire, of course. I remember one friend having to simulate extreme delight with a new light fitting for the utility room. When parcels get to that stage, perhaps it is time to think of other ways to celebrate?

One friend with whom I used to exchange birthday presents came up with the notion of going to a concert instead, which was a great idea and will doubtless lead to other great ideas. So far we have been to one concert and two plays, all most enjoyable and not a parcel in sight.

The festive season has always been full of theatrical and musical events, from pantomimes to brass bands and orchestral extravaganzas. Trips to concerts in Glasgow can incorporate a tour of the lights and whatever events are going on in George Square. There is a magic and glitter about the city at Christmas.

But you don't have to go that far to enjoy great performances. All the villages have their own events, nativity plays and pantomimes full of amusing local references. They will have church services with lovely traditional readings and great music guaranteed to fill you with seasonal cheer. Surely there is nothing more evocative of Christmas than the sound of carols. Children will be singing them in school, and there may even be carol singers round your neighbourhood.

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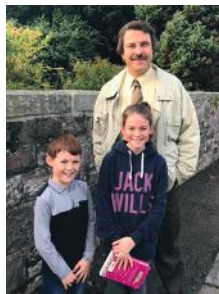
And if it's a concert you're seeking, look no further than Strathendrick Singers annual Christmas concert, on Friday, 15 December, in Killearn Kirk. Go along and treat yourselves to an early Christmas present.

Whatever you do, and whatever you find yourselves buying for your nearest and dearest, have a lovely Christmas when it comes.

JOYCE BEGG

# Grandpa's Great Escape – to Killearn

Did you see them in Killearn... David Walliams, Jennifer Saunders and Tom Courtney?



Yes, the television drama crews were back in our picturesque village this autumn filming *Grandpa's Great Escape* – the screen adaptation of David Walliams' hugely successful children's book, to be shown on BBC One over the Christmas period (exact date and time not known as *Courier* went to print).

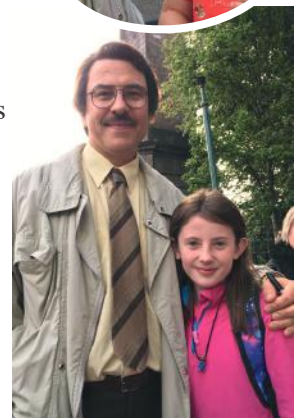
*Grandpa's Great Escape* tells the tale of Grandpa, a World War II flying ace, who now sadly suffers from Alzheimer's disease, and when his family can no longer look after him he is moved to an old people's home called Twilight Towers, run by Miss Dandy. It soon becomes clear Miss Dandy is running Twilight Towers for her own ulterior motives, and it is up to Grandpa and his grandson Jack to make a daring escape. Failure could have the most dire consequences, but success will give Grandpa a final chance to relive his past and once again take to the sky in his beloved Spitfire.

Grandpa is played by Tom Courtenay (*45 Years, Doctor Zhivago, The Dresser*), Kit Connor (*Get Santa, Mr Holmes*) is his grandson Jack and Miss Dandy is played by Jennifer Saunders (*French and Saunders, Absolutely Fabulous*). Jack's dad Barry will be played by David Walliams himself (*Little Britain, Britain's Got Talent*).

David Walliams said, 'I am thrilled to be working with acting and comedy royalty on this adaptation of my book. I have loved Tom Courtenay forever and I still can't believe that I am working with him. He is the perfect Grandpa. And what a treat to be working with comedy genius Jennifer Saunders again.'

The cast and crew paid two visits to Killearn – which was chosen because the Kirk was perfect for the story, says Production Coordinator Francesca Falchi-Pereira. They had a good time here and David Walliams, in particular, was frequently sought out for selfies by local children – and he seemed happy to oblige – as you can see!

*Grandpa's Great Escape* is produced by King Bert, an independent TV and film company founded by David Walliams and Miranda Hart.



We hope you enjoy these selfies with David Walliams' local fans. It is *Courier* policy not to name individual young people in photographs.

## Busy Bees



There has been quite a buzz on the Fintry Road this summer where filming has taken place at Boquhan House for the forthcoming mainstream film *Tell it to the Bees* which will be released in autumn 2018. Starring Anna Paquin and Holliday Grainger, it is based on the book of the same name which was published in the 1950s.

Some 60 film crew – all from Scotland – plus a world-class camera man from California swarmed past orange direction signs to designated car parks by the Black Bull and Glenside Farm. A mysterious van with a hooded driver sneaked round the back of Boquhan carrying a precious cargo of beehives, and a flower garden was created to keep the occupants happy.

The book by Fiona Shaw tells the story of a doctor who treats a young traumatised lad and suggests he visits her bees to talk to them. The burgeoning friendship between the doctor and the boy's mother caused quite a stir in post-war Britain, so read the book to find out what happens. LD

## Ladies Do Lunch

In October, the Lunch and Fashion Show at Culcreuch Castle, Fintry, raised £3,383 for Cancer Research UK. A fabulous fashion show from Frox of Falkirk followed lunch enjoyed by 130 ladies. After the parade of outfits a great raffle brought the afternoon to a close.

This is the fourth year the Strathendrick Local Fundraising Committee has staged a similar event which has now become an anticipated date in many local diaries.

Dorothy Roger, CRUK Area Volunteer Manager, spoke briefly to describe the organisation's research work and progress and to thank everyone for their support.

Since the charity receives no government funding, its vital research can only continue thanks to public contribution.

The Committee would like to extend their thanks to all the local businesses who gave time, expertise or prizes. Thanks also must go to individuals (some of whom were unable to attend) who donated items for raffle or made a financial contribution.



The committee's next venture will be the annual House to House Collection, 16–22 April 2018. The generosity of local residents means that this is the best fundraising effort of the year.

Although an army of volunteers can be seen on the area's streets, more collectors are always needed – and are very welcome. If you would like to be involved, please contact the committee chair, Janet Rutherford (01360 449214).

LESLEY KEIGHLEY



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## Another Successful Show

Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society held their 151st Annual Show in the Church, Village and Church halls on 26 August. The Show was slightly smaller than last year's 150th celebration, but some of the societies which helped us celebrate last year returned, and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of good weather. There were over 850 entries across the various sections, ranging from cut flowers to baking and art. Thanks to all the exhibitors who brought along their exhibits on the day.

Chairman John Phillips welcomed everyone and introduced our guest, the Rev. David Munro, who related his gardening experiences to an attentive audience. After presenting the trophies to the winners, the minister was presented with a lovely orchid by the Chairman as a thank you.

Rose grower David McIlroy from Buchlyvie won the Sir George Wilson Cup for his best exhibit in the rose classes. Local dahlia grower John Phillips won the Tom Robbie Trophy for most points in those classes. Janice McLaren from Balfron received several best exhibit prizes and won best overall in the Cut Flower section. Phyllis Gilroy exhibited an arrangement in an unusual container, which won the best exhibit in the Floral Art section. Class B11 (Robertson Trophy) was won by Madge Kennedy. 'Lianne', a tuberous-rooted begonia, won the best exhibit in pot plants for Show convenor Grant Farquharson. Local exhibitor David Houston won the Battison Cup for most points in the section.

Thornhill grower Norman McBean received four trophies in a very large entry in the Vegetables and Fruit section. Norman's display board of vegetables won best exhibit in section, and then went on to win the Quinloch decanter for the Best Exhibit in Horticulture.

The budding artists from Killearn Primary School and Nursery showed their skills with a display of paintings,



which decorated the walls of the Village Hall.

Across in the Church Hall, Kim McLaren from Arnprior exhibited a lovely selection of baking to gain most points in the section and win the Cuthbert Family Salver. Erin Parsons won the McIntosh Cup for most points in the Youth classes.

A jar of honey won best exhibit for Ben Somerville in the preserves, with Elizabeth Hay from Drymen receiving the McFarlane's (Balfron) voucher for most points. Quince gin was the chosen flavour to win the best exhibit in the Wine, Beer and Cordials section for Sara Rawlings.

In the Craft section, it was the Killearn residents who came out on top with Heather Wright winning the Millennium Quaich for most points. An embroidered picture winning best exhibit was displayed by Gill Smith, with the most amusing craft being won by Jenny Wilks and James Wright (Youth).



A selection of miniature gardens saw Tilda and James Pope, along with Amy Wright win their respective age groups, with Zoe Laughlin showing the most amusing craft entry and receiving the Society prize for points in their section.

A good exhibit of photographs saw Di Davies from Killearn winning the best exhibit, with David McKay receiving the prize for most points.

The best exhibit in the art classes was a painting from Anne McKay, with Karen Kerr receiving a voucher for the most points in section.

The full list of results and more photos of the day can be found on our website ([www.killearn.org.uk/kchs](http://www.killearn.org.uk/kchs)).

A well-deserved thank you to all the helpers over the period of the Show, in particular the ladies who kept us fed and watered on Saturday.

GF



## App of the Issue: Google Photos

Google Photos is a clever little app which provides an innovative solution to many common technology problems.



Do you run out of storage on your smart device? The app works with Google's cloud service, meaning you can upload all your photos to the Google cloud, backing them up safely. You can then delete them from the device and when you have access to an internet connection, all of your photos can be viewed within the Google photos app.

Do you have trouble finding the exact photos you're looking for? Google Photos automatically scans your photos to detect their content and can then filter them into categories. The app groups your photos by what they contain. For example, if you take a picture of your dog and then back it up with Google Photos, it will scan the photo and place it into an album with your other photos of dogs. Google Photos can detect buildings, sunsets and even beaches. If geo-tagging was enabled, the app also groups your photos by location as well as by the date and time when they were captured.

Fed up with deleting pictures you no longer need? The app is really useful for a student like myself, with a phone gallery filled with pictures of textbooks and study guides. It can identify these pictures under the caption of 'clutter' and allows you to archive them straight from the app.

Google Photos is available free on Apple and Android.

JAMIE CUSHING

## Village Hall News

### Youth Club

The Youth Club, under Archie Wilson's leadership, has started up again on Sundays from 3pm-4pm, offering board games, table tennis and football.

If numbers are sufficient, Archie would love to introduce table tennis and football competitions involving neighbouring villages. Suggestions for other activities are always encouraged.

Parent volunteers as well as primary school children are all very welcome. Children can sign themselves in as long as parents have filled in the membership form and given parent's consent. There is a charge of £2 per session to cover insurance, and drinks are provided.

Please support this exciting initiative.

### Killearn Enterprise Hub

We apologise that, due to unforeseen circumstances, our September KEH meeting had to be postponed. Please keep an eye out for the rearranged date.

### Regular Events

Visit [www.killearnvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.killearnvillagehall.co.uk) and click on the events calendar for details of the activities which take place during the week. These include badminton, stillness moves yin yoga, dance sing, yoga, tae kwon do, dancing, fun-k dance and the Monday Club. We hope there is something there to attract you.

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## Wine With That?

Christmas is as much about the food as it is about the presents for many people – not forgetting precious family time, of course. It is such a hectic season, and often we don't have the time to give the wine a second thought.

If you enjoy the classic Christmas feast, then here are some very good wines that will complement your meal.

For turkey with all the trimmings, there are a lot of options that work well. The perfect wines are medium to full-bodied whites or light to medium body reds, and in these categories, there are a lot of options to choose from.

If your preference is for white wine, the best option is a Chardonnay from Burgundy, and it is worth looking outside the well-known region of Chablis for something a little fuller bodied to stand up to the rich flavours of Christmas dinner.

The Co-op has two great options on the shelf. The first a well-priced Macon-Villages at £7.99 and the second is a great St Veran at £11.99, which offers more body and complexity at a reasonable price.

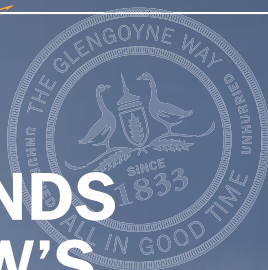
However, if your wine for dinner just has to be red, then the options are broad, from a Pinot Noir to a younger Rioja, to a well-balanced Bordeaux or Chianti with a bit of age. Hewitt & Aker have a great selection to choose from and I have picked three reds that would work well on the day. The Esk Valley Pinot Noir is very fruity and light, and easy drinking, which is great when the making merry lasts a good few hours. For something more complex, go for either the Ormanni Chianti at £11.85, or the Lopez de Haro Rioja Crianza at £9, which will work well with the turkey, and last all the way to the end of the cheese board.

ELAINE TAYLOR



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## Killearn Health Centre News

### Text Reminders

We now offer a free text reminders for any pre-booked appointments. Please make sure we have your up-to-date mobile phone number.

### Vaccination Programme

We are still offering flu vaccinations to patients either aged 65 and over or in an 'at risk' group. If you fall into these categories, please contact the surgery for information if you have not had a flu vaccination this year, or if you are 65 or over and have never had a pneumococcal vaccination. Children aged 2–5 years on 1 September 2017 and not attending school will be offered the nasal vaccination at the Health Centre. If you are pregnant, you are entitled to the flu vaccination at any stage in your pregnancy and the whooping cough vaccination from week 16.

### Managed Repeat Prescription Service

Killearn Pharmacy runs a Managed Repeat Prescription Service. This means you no longer have to contact the surgery to order your prescriptions. Please contact Killearn Pharmacy for details.

### Medicines to stop taking in the short term if you are sick

If you are unwell with vomiting or diarrhoea (unless only minor) or fevers, sweats and shaking then STOP taking the medications below. Restart when you are well (i.e. after 24–48 hours of eating and drinking normally):

- ACE Inhibitors names ending in 'pril' (e.g. perindopril, ramipril, lisinopril)
- ARBs names ending in 'sartan' (e.g. losartan, valsartan, candesartan)
- NSAIDs anti-inflammatory pain killers (e.g. ibuprofen, diclofenac, naproxen)
- Diuretics sometimes called 'water pills' (e.g. Furosemide, spironolactone)
- Metformin (a medicine for diabetes)

If you are in any doubt, contact your pharmacist, GP or nurse.

### Christmas and New Year Closures

- Closed 25–26 December, reopening Wednesday, 27 December
- Closed 1–2 January, reopening Wednesday, 3 January 2018

### Calling all whist players!

Mark **Friday, 9 March 2018** in your diary and come along to the **Church Hall at 7.30pm** to enjoy the Horticultural Society Whist Drive.

It's sure to be a great evening's entertainment with prizes for the winners, a raffle and tea with lots of homemade cakes, all for the bargain price of £2 in support of the Horti.

Call Glenda on 550142 for more information.

## Bridge by Zorro

The hand in this issue is taken from the Charity Challenge Cup in 1978. This was held to raise funds for the British Deaf Association and World Federation of the Deaf.

Heats were held in the UK, Australia, central and southern Africa, United States, Bahrain, Singapore and several European countries.

The bidding went predictably with East opening 2♠, 3♥ from West, 3♠ and 4♠.

Sitting South you pick the best lead of the ♣A. You see the King fall from Declarer.

Is there any defence to beat the contract?

The solution is on page 41.

**Dealer: East North/South Vulnerable**

♠	6 4	
♥	A K Q 7 5	
♦	8 4	<b>West</b>
♣	10 9 6 5	(dummy)

	<b>South</b>
♠	K 10
♥	J 6 4
♦	A J 9 6
♣	A J 3 2

Killearn Bridge Club has started its new season and we invite both existing and new members to join in and exercise those 'little grey cells'.

We can't promise too many perplexing puzzles, just a friendly way to spend a Tuesday evening from 7pm at the Kirkhouse Inn in Strathblane.

For those wishing to learn to play, some taster sessions are also planned.

To join in with either, we would like to hear from you; see below for our contact details.



**Killearn Bridge Club**  
*Keep those little grey cells active!*

**Play Bridge!**

Tuition for beginners and practice for new-starter players  
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or Eileen Lindsay 770686  
[www.bridgewebs.com/killearn](http://www.bridgewebs.com/killearn)

## Sweet Memories

Sandra Burt, whose obituary we carried in the last issue of the *Courier*, had been planning a Breast Cancer Care Afternoon Tea party in her garden to bring people together in the lovely, informal surroundings to raise money for the UK's only specialist breast cancer support charity.

In keeping with her wishes, her husband Dez entrusted Sandra's friends to continue the planning of the party. Sara Melville was designated Chief Cake Coordinator and many more people were assigned their baking-related tasks.

The afternoon tea took place on Saturday, 23 September in the Burt's garden. Invitations were sent out through the various groups, clubs and committees that Sandra had been part of. More than 40 people came along to show their support, with more sending a donation.

All of the delightful food was handmade and donated by friends in the village. Of course, Dez turned the event into a speakeasy, providing fizz hidden in the teacups.

There was a raffle of prizes generously donated by local people and businesses, including prizes from Endrick Blooms, the Old Mill, the Co-op, and Town and Country.

The final donation made to Breast Cancer Care was an amazing £2,500. But it wasn't the only charity to benefit from Sandra's party. The leftover food was sent to Glasgow Humanists Tea Run. Dez said, 'Everyone had a great time and I am truly grateful to all those who supported us and donated to Breast Cancer Care. It was really nice to have time to remember Sandra back in her garden.'



## Colourful Killearn Begonia Bonanza

What a spectacular blaze of colour the begonias have given this year.

As you are reading this in the dark days of November, the photo (top right) of the stacked barrels on Main Street may serve as a reminder that some, at least, enjoy a cool, wet summer!

By now the tubs have been cleared and replanted with the promise of spring to come – beneath the bare compost, daffodil bulbs lie waiting for the turn of the year.

Despite a slow start in the long dry spell in spring, we have been enjoying the first fruits of the Wildflower Project all through the summer. Two patches at the sports pavilion have given very pleasing results with lots of colour and, more importantly, food for insects (see photo below and bottom right). The flowers have

been humming with activity. It will be interesting to see how the mix of species develops in subsequent years, and whether it maintains its impact on both the eye and the local fauna.

Money from the Co-op Local Community Fund ensures we can sow more areas for another couple of years. A further bid for Co-op funding to underplant the carved village signs has been unsuccessful, but a generous donation from the organisers of Killearn Beer Festival has gone some way towards filling the gap.

If you would like to support Colourful Killearn, contact Mike Gray (550962) or Iain Bowie (550349).



## Nightmare on Main Street

Recently there has been much discussion about changes within Killearn and this led me to recall my first visit to what was then The Black Bull, the village pub.

It was evening in December 1965. Neighbours of ours were to come and have a few beers. By the time I discovered that we had no beer, it was past closing time for the Co-op so I decided to venture up to the 'Bull'.

It was a cold, dark evening. Snow was lightly falling. I was sure that very few people, if any, would be out and about. Having just washed my hair, I wound a scarf round my head to cover my rollers. What a sight to behold! I was wearing an old sheepskin jacket which would no longer button up owing to my increasing girth as our first child was due.

Inside the hotel, it seemed quiet and empty. I rang the bell on the reception desk and after several minutes a member of staff appeared and directed me to the public bar.

'Along that corridor and second door on the right,' she said. As I made my way I heard music. As soon as I opened the second door on the right, in from the dimly lit passageway I met a wall of light and noise. I was apparently on a stage and the spotlights picked me out like a startled rabbit in headlights.

At the far side of the stage was a man in full evening dress, crooning about leaving his heart in San Francisco. Beyond the row of spotlights I made out a semicircle of tables where the audience sat drinking and smoking. They began to laugh, thoroughly amused by what they assumed was all part of the evening's entertainment.

The star performer adjusted his act to take full advantage of this unexpected bonus. Walking over to me and still singing he wrapped an arm round my sheepskin shoulders and drew me towards him. The audience laughed and there was some foot stamping.

All I wanted was to escape. I twisted out of his grasp and fled towards what I could now see was the public bar beyond the circle of tables. Reaching the bar I made my purchase, at the same time searching the room for the exit into the comforting darkness. There it was! Clutching my brown carrier bag, I paid and made a dive for the door, only to discover at the last minute that I had headed into what was an enormous mirror reflecting the exit on the opposite wall.

There may still be folk in the village who watched this pantomime more than half a century ago. I hope you enjoyed the performance. There will never be a repeat.

CHRISTINE BOWIE

Have you had an embarrassing experience you would like to share with readers of the *Courier*? We would love to hear from you. You can email your story to [courier@kfcf.co.uk](mailto:courier@kfcf.co.uk) or write to the Editor and pop it into the postbox outside the Village Hall.

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# Courier Cubs' Fe

It's that time of year again!

Twinkling lights are appearing, cinnamon sales booming and many atrocious jumpers are being worn with the excuse that it's Christmas. The *Courier Cubs* love Christmas, so we decided to share our favourite Christmas traditions – foods and things to do – in the hope you will get the most out of the festive season. So grab some eggnog and a mince pie, pop on your Christmas playlist, and enjoy some of our Christmas favourites.



## Traditional Turkey

It may seem obvious, but nothing quite sets the Christmas scene as much as a delicious turkey on the table. The turkey tradition began in Victorian times and has remained a Christmas staple since then. A well-seasoned turkey can make a Christmas Day, so make sure you have your salt and pepper on hand.

## Roasties

There's nothing quite like the crisp crack of a slightly overcooked roasted potato. With its deep golden outer to its soft fluffy inner, there's nothing that can compare. Although not a health tip, cooking in goose fat or even duck fat (makes an absolutely 'quacking' roaster) gives an extra luxurious edge. Don't pretend your mouth's not watering already.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



### Christmas Tree Napkins

These napkins look perfect for a Christmas dinner table setting. For a step-by-step guide search at [www.handimania.com](http://www.handimania.com).

### Advent Calendar

Everyone has their own tradition, but in our house it's putting up the moose advent calendar that Santa faithfully (well almost... sometimes he gets distracted) pops a little treat in every night. Thinking about it, our 'moose' is probably a reindeer, but for some reason it's a Christmas moose to us.

## CHRISTMAS TREATS

Perfect with a mug of hot cocoa, gingerbread muffins are a delicious take on the classic Christmas gingerbread. Containing Christmassy spices and a light fluffy texture, you'll be feeling festive in no time.



There's nothing quite like finding a tin of your favourite chocolates sitting beneath the tree. Although certainly not healthy, it's nice to treat yourself to a couple of chocolates while watching Christmas TV. Remember, don't put your wrappers back in the tin – it just leads to much disappointment later.



**'All I Want for Christmas is You'**, Mariah Carey – this modern Christmas classic is a guaranteed singalong in a party playlist.

Originally released in 1994, it was written in around 15 minutes by Mariah and Walter Afanasieff. The song has since experienced huge popularity, with sales exceeding 14 million and having reportedly made \$50 million in royalties as of 2013.

**'White Christmas'**, the Irving Berlin classic, is the best-selling Christmas song of all time. He supposedly wrote it while staying in California – a New Yorker dreaming of snow, not sun and sand, at Christmas. Berlin recorded it in 1942 and it was played to American troops on Armed Forces Radio during their first wartime Christmas, lifting their spirits and reminding them of home. It seems, more than 50 years later, we're all still dreaming of that white Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS WARMER – Salted Caramel Rum Hot Chocolate



Why not try this warming drink – just leave out the rum for an alcoholic-free option.

25ml rum  
2tsp dulce de leche or thick caramel  
150ml whole milk  
50g chopped milk chocolate

In a small bowl, mix together the rum and dulce de leche until smooth then set aside.  
Warm the milk in a saucepan until simmering.  
Remove from heat, add the chocolate and stir until melted.  
Pop the pan back on the heat until warm then add the rum mixture and a pinch of flaky sea salt.  
Pour into a mug and serve.

# Festive Favourites

## CHRISTMAS RECIPE – MINCEMEAT SLICE

This is a great recipe to use up leftover mincemeat. Try adding more apple or other fruits to your mincemeat along with orange zest and spices.

150g butter  
75g soft brown sugar  
225g wholewheat flour  
110g porridge oats  
225g mincemeat

Melt the butter and sugar in a saucepan; remove from heat, add the flour and oats and mix well. Put half the mixture into a lined 28cmx18cm tin and press down firmly; spread the mincemeat mixture evenly, spoon the remaining oat mixture on top and press down firmly. Bake for 20 minutes at 190°C (180°C fan oven). Slice when cold.



The NORAD Santa tracker ([www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org)) lets you see where the great man is, allowing little ones to make sure they are in bed in plenty of time before Santa slips down the chimney. NORAD's (North American Aerospace Defense Command)

main job is aerospace defence, but on 1 December, we discover even national defence likes to get into the festive spirit. The fantastic website allows you to see where Santa is currently flying and delivering joy. So make sure to check out his whereabouts in the build-up to Christmas Day.

## CHRISTMAS BOOKS

**'Santa's Reindeer'** by Rod Green is a fantastic book with lots of fun, interesting facts about Santa's favourite helpers. Not only a really good book for children, it's also suitable for the family, as it's got some nice content.



**'A Man Called Ove'** – a wonderful, uplifting novel written by Swedish author Fredrik Backman, with echoes of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. The book recounts the incredible life of Ove, an elderly man whom many dismiss as a curmudgeon. You'll laugh and cry throughout this beautifully written story.

## CHRISTMAS PET GIFT



Worried that your pet pooch might not be able to enjoy the Christmas fun? A card, made for

man's best friend, composed of 100% rawhide and completely edible, is available on [dfordog.co.uk](http://dfordog.co.uk) for only £3.99. Cats believe they are in charge, but just keep your wrapping paper, crunch it up into a ball and watch your 'aristocats' lose their aplomb.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTING

'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' doesn't have a particularly Christmassy plot line, but it's a great family trip out nonetheless. With a release date of 14 December, the eighth instalment of the hugely successful 'Star Wars' franchise is set to be a fantastic, fun film. It continues the third Star Wars trilogy that began with 'The Force Awakens' in 2015 and stars fan favourites including Mark Hamill and the late Carrie Fisher.



## CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS

### Kinderspunch

2 cups orange juice, 2 cups apple juice, ½ cup cherry juice, 2 cups water, 2 cinnamon sticks, 10 cloves, 2 star anise, 5 bags hibiscus tea (or whatever you fancy), honey to taste.

Bring all ingredients (except tea and honey) to the boil in a pan and simmer for 15 mins. Add tea bags and leave for 10 mins. Remove and add honey. Reheat and serve with orange slices, cloves, a star anise or cinnamon stick.



### Gingerbread Bellini

Juice of 1 lemon, 1 tbsp gingerbread syrup, 50ml hazelnut liqueur, 350ml prosecco, 25g marzipan, rolled into four small balls, four mini gingerbread men. Mix together the lemon juice, gingerbread syrup and hazelnut liqueur in a small jug. Add to glass and top up with Prosecco. Press a marzipan ball on to the rim of each glass to secure the mini gingerbread men.



**'Home Alone'**, ideal for a Christmas Eve night in, stars Macaulay Culkin, and is perfect for spreading Christmas joy.

The main character, a young boy named Kevin McCallister, is accidentally left at home after his family rush to the airport early in the morning for a Christmas holiday. Kevin must then survive all alone, a task made not so easy by a pair of thieving bandits who are looking to rob the McCallister's house...

**'Love Actually'**, with its star studded cast including Liam Neeson, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Keira Knightly and Rowan Atkinson is a seasonal treat. Without spoiling it, this classic rom-com follows an array of different people and how their lives twist and twine on the run up to Christmas Day. It has tears and laughter, and something for everyone.



## A nurturing environment for our children provided by Heron House



Autumn is constantly changing, and unreliable weather offers us new exciting opportunities, provoking curiosity, investigation and learning.

We have collected apples, made pies and jumped in leaf piles whilst investigating the Killearn Glen's woodland wonder. We were matching leaves, counting conkers and racing twigs and bark in the stream. We "trip-trapped" over the bridge in our wellies and waterproofs. Back at nursery, we toasted marshmallows and drank hot chocolate outside. There was

much dialogue and more learning opportunities in our outdoor environment than we could count!

**Our annual Christmas show, "The Nativity Sing Along" is held in Killearn Village Hall on Friday 22 December at 3pm.**

**ALL WELCOME.**

**Tickets are £2.50 for adults. Children are free and donations also welcome. All proceeds are for The Beatson Cancer Charity, a charity close to our hearts.**

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Fiona and Gabi would be happy to chat, so come along and meet us to find out more of what we do.

**We wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our families and friends.**

**May 2018 be good to all.**

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# Killearn's Community Futures Company – are you a future volunteer?

The directors of Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) were delighted to see such a large attendance at the Annual General Meeting in October, but it was left to Jim Fallas at the end of the meeting to point out tactfully that younger members of the community were very much in the minority and that the majority of those present probably qualified for a bus pass.

The aim of community companies like KCFC is to enable communities to take ownership of their own future, embracing community action and not relying entirely on outside agencies. As local councils and governments have become squeezed for cash, this has become ever more necessary.

In Killearn, volunteers are doing a great job of enhancing the village with plants and wild flowers, maintaining paths, youth activities, running the village hall and organising village events. However, organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to find younger volunteers willing to give a reasonably long-term commitment – and the current members are ageing!

Who is going to take over and who is going to restore what's been lost? Killearn used to have thriving Boys' Brigade and Scout sections, and the Guides and Brownies are struggling to find leaders.

There are signs that things are changing. A youth club has started again and the Hoolie is a new interpretation of the regular village fête that I enjoyed and took part in when I first came to the village. The annual 10K and the Beer Festival are great successes and welcome additions to the calendar. Both are KCFC spinoffs.

One realises the world of work makes greater demands than in the past, but they say busy people have the most time. Volunteering is satisfying and fun. Don't be put off by the bureaucracy of disclosure if you are volunteering to work with young or vulnerable people, it is much less onerous now. And don't use the excuse of lacking the expertise – we're not looking for brain surgeons, just energy, ideas and helping hands.

Talk to people in our village organisations. You'll be surprised how much you can offer, and you'll have the opportunity to meet more of your fellow villagers and maybe make some new real-world face-to-face friends.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer there are many opportunities. Please get in touch if you could help with any of the following: the youth organisations, the Thursday Club (which provides entertainment for the older members of the community), maintaining paths, archiving Killearn's past, the fireworks, the Hoolie, the Village Hall, even the *Courier*. At the very least, you could become a member of KCFC.

We would also like to hear from you if you think there is something not being done in the village and you have an idea about how to help make a difference. There are many activities in other villages that are lacking in Killearn.

Interested? Please email us ([secretary@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@kcfc.co.uk)) or drop a letter in the postbox outside the village hall, addressed to Company Secretary, KCFC, and we will put you in touch with the right person.

PETER WILKS, CONVENOR, KCFC



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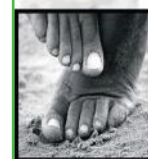
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## Foot Health Clinic

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Torrence - Thursday 9am - 4pm

## Killearn's Contribution to The Great War 1914–18 Part 3: 1916

The first Stirling papers of 1916 carried descriptions of the service of remembrance for John Sanderson held in Killearn United Free Church on Sunday, 26 December 1915, and conducted by the Rev. Theodor Johnson, minister in Strathblane. Tributes were read from the commander of John Sanderson's regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel R.L. Warrington, the regimental chaplain Rev. Leslie G. Mannering, and the Presbyterian Chaplain to the Forces Norman M. Wright. In addition, there was a message of condolence on behalf of the King and Queen.

Despite the war, many of the normal events within the village carried on. The Miniature Rifle Club held its annual meeting in January and the Total Abstinence Society and Band of Hope held fortnightly meetings during the winter and spring.

On Sunday, 16 January, Rev. A. Gordon Mitchell unveiled the memorial plaque in the church commemorating the ministries of Rev. James Graham and of his nephew and successor, the Very Rev. John Graham. Between them they served from 1768 to 1865 – 97 years.

There were some changes in village routine, however, including the abandonment of the Agricultural Society show for the year.

The villagers' work to aid the war effort continued to increase. The bi-monthly collections for War Work Funds to be spent on materials

for Red Cross work amounted to £10 11s 9d in December, £12 8s in February, £12 19s 10d in April and £13 7s 7d in June.

The previous year, the school had been asked to organise a Flag Day for the French Relief Fund, but it was decided to have a house-to-house collection in January instead. Twelve pupils collected £5 10s 4d and received a letter of thanks from Mr Cook, the Secretary for Scotland.

In August, a new source of funding became available: selling waste paper collected in the village. Paper could be deposited at the Hall on Wednesday or at the schoolhouse at other times.

On 6 April, the school children performed a play in the Hall, adapted from the song 'Loch Invar' by the Misses Wallis-Smith, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Tea was served afterwards by children dressed as Serbian peasants. This raised £50 8s 9d, with a further 10s from a collection amongst the children.

The children also aided the war effort by growing vegetables for the fleet. In August, three bags were despatched, some with vegetables grown by the children and some donated, after which vegetables were packed and sent off each Monday.

Another cause supported was the Church of Scotland's 'Huts for Soldiers', intended to provide huts for soldiers, sailors and munitions workers at home and abroad.

To raise funds, Rev. J.H. Dickie

of New Kilpatrick gave a lecture on 2 May entitled 'From the Trenches to Bonnie Scotland' in the Hall, assisted by a professional singer and organist. The lecture, accompanied by songs, utilised a 'Limelight' projector to screen photographs of men in the trenches. The evening was said to be similar to the entertainment provided to the troops in huts behind the lines, although of the £11 raised, £10 was absorbed in hall expenses.

More lucratively, a YMCA Flag Day on 20 May raised £41 and a collection in the Church in July raised a further £14 17s 10½d.

A meeting of the War Work Sewing Party was held on 9 May, when it was announced that during the six winter months 2,375 garments had been made and despatched to the Red Cross. Of these, 464 garments had been made for Belgium and Serbia and 231 garments, worn but in good condition, had been despatched.

The Convenor of the Scottish branch of the Red Cross issued an appeal to keep up efforts during the summer as the fighting was expected to be more intense in the better weather with increased demands on the medical facilities. It was decided that all-day summer work parties would be held in the Hall every third Wednesday from 10am until dark starting on 7 June, to enable workers to attend at convenient times. On all other Wednesdays, the Hall would be open for work from 1.30pm.

By September, the needs of the

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Belgians in that country and Serbian refugees were increasing. It was decided to open the Hall every day that month from 10.30am to make garments for those causes and there was an appeal for textile material of any kind to be donated for this purpose. Wednesdays were still to be reserved for Red Cross work.

By late summer, sphagnum moss was again available on the local fells. The first 'Sphagnum Moss Day' was held in the Hall on Saturday, 15 July, when 3,010 bags were made and filled with moss for use as dressings. It was reported that there were enough volunteers to make more, but they ran out of moss.

A second effort on 5 August completed 4,010 bags. Again it was reported that more could have been made as there was plenty of moss and volunteers, but on this occasion they ran out of material to make bags. On 26 August, 5,002 bags were completed and on the final day, 30 September, a further 3,560 bags filled before fading light stopped work.

The second half of the year was blighted by the death in service of several local men. On 1 July, Captain David Bryce Kerr, son of Robert Kerr, formerly factor of Ballikinrain and elder of Killearn Kirk, was killed in action. Only two days later his brother, Private Alexander Leopold Kerr, who had only gone to France in May, was also killed. They had been able to spend a few hours together in France on 28 June.

On 10 September, Private John McLean was killed while acting as a stretcher bearer carrying a sergeant-major of his company. He was from Greystone, Ballikinrain, and the first volunteer in the district to enlist.

On 15 September, there were more casualties when both Captain Ernest Pellew Orr-Ewing and Lieutenant William George Edmonstone, heir to Duntreath, were killed.

In November, Private James Valentine, who had sustained serious head injuries, died in hospital in

France. He had been head gardener to Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn for about two years before joining the army.

The final casualty of the year was Private William McLean, the half-brother of John, who died on 7 December. He had worked on the Ballikinrain Estate before enlisting. Seven deaths within six months made 1916 the worst year so far for Killearn.

The Government wished to have War Savings Associations set up in every parish. In September, a sub-committee was set up with the aim of forming such an association, with Dr Wilson as chairman.

A public meeting was called on Thursday, 5 October, where it was decided to set up the Killearn Parish War Savings Association, with Mr Bryce Buchanan as chairman. The Association operated from the school and was open each Tuesday afternoon to receive contributions of 6d or more. By December, there were 20 subscribers to the scheme and a total of £187 19s 6d deposited.

Saturday, 4 November was the Scottish National Red Cross Day. To mark it, the Women's War Work Party arranged that Mr Paul, who was a professional auctioneer, would conduct a sale of free gifts in the Hall.

A wide variety of items was auctioned, ranging from furniture, clothes, coal, farm produce, and even a calf and a lamb.

A total of £215 14s was raised, comprising £134 19s from the sale, £18 11s from the parish bi-monthly October collection, £58 6s in donations and £3 18s from teas.

Numerous gifts of 'comforts' for the troops were received, ranging from knitted clothing to sweets and tobacco, and with an estimated value of about £25.

Earlier in the year, Mrs N.P. Donaldson had reported receiving letters of thanks from serving men for the Christmas boxes sent to them the previous December.

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In November, a public meeting was held to arrange for Christmas parcels to be sent again to the 10 officers and 85 Killearn men now in the forces.

Residents had contributed £36 5s 6d for the purpose, and it was agreed to send a 3s packet of cigarettes to each officer and a parcel valued approximately at 6s 6d to each of the rank and file.

The parcels would contain shortbread, ginger cake, coffee, milk, soup tablets, almonds and raisins, chocolate and cigarettes.

Once again, the villagers of Killearn had made significant contributions to the war effort.

By the end of 1916, 95 Killearn men were serving and 10 had laid down their lives for the country.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

## Three Killearn Men Remembered



The Third Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele, was fought between 31 July and 6 November 1917. Two Killearn men, William Jenkinson and Kenneth Miller, died in the battle. William is buried in Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery in Ypres. Kenneth has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, also at Ypres.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the battle, a ceremony of remembrance took place at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium on 31 July this year. Dez Burt and Claes Svensson obtained two of the 4,000 tickets made available to the public by ballot. The All Killearn Archive prepared a wreath in memory of Kenneth and William, together with a Cross of Remembrance for David Marshall, another Killearn man who was killed on 23 August 1917 and lies at Tyne Cot.

Dez and Claes placed the wreath on the memorial and the cross on the grave of David Marshall at the cemetery.

## War Memorial Time Capsule

In January 1924, Rev. Dr Gordon Mitchell, the minister of Killearn Kirk, deposited a box containing information regarding the Killearn War Memorial in a cavity within the memorial. As part of the ongoing research into the lives of the men remembered on the memorial, the Archive Group wish to recover the box to examine the contents. The box would later be replaced having added more information obtained during our research. This would include the names of those with Killearn connections who served, and in some cases gave their lives, but are not, at present, commemorated.

After dedication in April 1924, the memorial was given into the care of Killearn Parish Council together with a sum of money to maintain it. The parish council no longer exists and we have been unable to ascertain the present owners of the memorial. Stirling Council, who now hold the maintenance fund, deny ownership. The Archive Group believe they know the position of the box and, as they cannot identify the owner, intend to proceed with the excavation in January 2018. Anyone who has any objection to this should e-mail [archives@kefc.co.uk](mailto:archives@kefc.co.uk) or contact any member of the Archive Group.

The Group would also be interested to hear suggestions from Killearn villagers as to if and how those who served, and in particular, those who died but are not named on the current memorial, should be commemorated. Current suggestions include a new plaque at the memorial or a commemoration tablet within the church.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

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# Killearn Community Futures Company AGM Report

Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) held its AGM on 19 October in the Village Hall. Convenor Peter Wilks welcomed 53 members and reminded them of KCFC's aims as well as giving an overview of the previous year's achievements. Membership currently stands at 252, there are 10 active working groups involved in projects supported by the community such as the building of the Community Sports Pavilion, the annual fireworks display, and Colourful Killearn's floral displays and Christmas tree, as well as the *Courier*.

The Convenor also noted other projects including the updated Killearn Paths map and the establishment of new initiatives: the Youth Club in the Village Hall and the Killearn Enterprise Hub with its links to Balfour High School. The Convenor took the opportunity to thank the directors and especially the volunteers whose commitment 'reflected the highest standard of community volunteering and plays a major role in the current successful position of the Company.'

The two longest-serving directors, Bob Ballantyne and Brian Simmers, both indicated their willingness to be re-elected to the Board and this was accomplished by a show of hands of the members present. Ken Alexander and Iain Howie, who had both been appointed by the Board during the previous year to oversee the Path and Implementation/Enterprise portfolios respectively, were duly elected as Member Directors. It is with regret that

the Board accepted two retirements. Gwenda Watt (Killearn Market) and Neil McArthur (Fireworks) stepped down at the AGM. They were thanked for their hard work over the years.

Treasurer Bob Ballantyne took the meeting through the Report and Accounts. With a net surplus of £514 after capitalising expenditure of £1,199, a balance at the end of the financial year (31 July) which totalled £115,695 with reserves of £427,390, he reported that the Company is in good financial health.

Working group directors spoke briefly to the AGM and answered questions from the floor. The constant refrain from all the group convenors was the need for more – and younger – volunteers, particularly parents with younger children because many of the activities of KCFC are aimed at the village's children. This is a particularly pressing problem for the Fireworks group, but is true for all the groups. Suggestions were made from the floor on ways this might be accomplished. The Convenor emphasised that new members would be made very welcome, and the Company is always open to new ideas and opportunities to enhance village life.

Full financial records and minutes of the AGM will be available on the KCFC website ([www.kcfc.co.uk](http://www.kcfc.co.uk)). More information about working groups is also available on the site, along with contact and membership details.

NANCY BAILEY, KCFC COMPANY SECRETARY

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Trade references available for all aspects of work.

*Thank you to all our customers for your continued support throughout 2017*

PC Steven Graham and PC Scott Craigie are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, which incorporates Killearn and surrounding areas. They are based at Balfron Police Office, and can be contacted at the office, on 101 or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). They regularly publish information and appeals online. The local Twitter feed can be found at [@StirlingPol](https://twitter.com/StirlingPol), and the local Facebook page can be found at 'Forth Valley Police Division'. Current ward priorities for the area remain antisocial behaviour, road safety, theft and community engagement and reassurance,

## Antisocial Behaviour

A small number of minor incidents have been reported and have been dealt with accordingly. That is life, and nothing that should be of concern to any residents.

## Theft

Thefts since the last issue all occurred over night, and include a monkey puzzle plant in a pot from a garden, a motor vehicle from a driveway, the signs from the Kirk car park, and wiper blades from a vehicle parked in a driveway. Always make sure you have locked and secured your property and keep all keys, be they car keys, house keys or any other key, in a safe place out of sight. Report any suspicious persons or activity to 101. If anyone would like crime prevention advice, please contact PC Graham or PC Craigie.

## Road Safety

Static speed checks continue to be carried out by local officers in a number of locations in and around Killearn with enforcement action taken when applicable.

The issues regarding irresponsible parking around Killearn Primary School continue, including parking over residential driveways and on the zig-zag markings. Parking over someone's driveway would be dealt with as an obstruction by police, although it is more likely that you will have to deal with an upset resident. Parking on zig-zag markings is still dealt with by the police. Another parent has been charged with parking on the zig-zags and is presently the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal at Stirling. The zig-zags are there for the safety of your children, so please leave enough time to park safely or walk to the school if you can.

The parking issues at Finnoch Toll and the area of the Devil's Pulpit continue to cause issues. The police can, and are dealing with, any vehicles causing an obstruction. Since the last issues, a number of vehicles have been uplifted and the owners issued with a fixed penalty fine. Stirling Council Roads Department, the owner of the land, local councillors and the community council are presently working together to try and resolve this issue. It is hoped the arrival of winter will reduce visitor numbers. As an aside, a large number of unattended

vehicles, parked in the middle of nowhere, have now begun to attract the wrong type of attention, with one vehicle stolen and one broken into at this location since the last issue.

## Community Engagement and Reassurance

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

## Public Consultation Survey – Your View Counts

Following previous useful feedback, the Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey has been launched again this year in the form of an online survey. It provides a further avenue for local communities to provide feedback to Police Scotland in relation to a variety of topics including what local people feel local policing priorities should be in their communities.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Visit [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts).

## Rural Watch

Rural Watch Scotland is an information platform that has been set up by what was formerly Neighbourhood Watch. Assistance in getting a higher membership would be appreciated and we are looking to market the system locally with relevant crime information being highlighted.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme, you can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping you informed about crime and other threats in your area, we help prevent crime, keep your community and its residents safe, and your response to these alerts can help us catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to your community. To join Rural Watch Scotland go to [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk) and click the green join button at the top of the page. For manual registration forms and other resources, visit [www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk).

## Finally

This is the last issue of 2017 and looking back we can say that 'it's not been a bad old year'. Crime and disorder within the village are extremely low by national standards and this makes Killearn one of the safest places to live in Scotland.

## Energy Reform

One of my priorities is working to reduce the burden of unfair energy bills. During the recent parliamentary debate for the proposed Energy Price Cap, I asked the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark MP, to acknowledge that it would take far more than just making switching between suppliers easier to ensure a fairer energy market in the UK.

According to a *Price of Power* survey, people across the Stirling constituency are overpaying for energy by over £7 million a year – an average of £257 a family. The reason for this is largely due to the nature of the energy market. While there are six companies supposedly in competition with each other, there appears to be a lack of competitive pressure to push down prices.

Smaller energy businesses are hamstrung by the difficulty of changing suppliers, so as a result many such companies do not survive, leaving the sector unbalanced as smaller businesses are strangled out of the market.

I was very pleased to be able to sign the open letter calling for an effective price cap and calling for the Government to act, ensuring we see a reformed energy market. This letter helped encourage the recent announcement from the Government, which I welcome.

As your MP and as a member of the committee which scrutinises the Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy Department, I will continue to campaign for real reform to this sector to ensure it operates in the best interest of the consumer.

STEPHEN KERR MP

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## Gardening Jobs for the Winter

The end of 2017 is in sight and with it the end of my 10th year in charge of Benview. I find it hard to believe, but much has changed in that time, with the fabric of the buildings, the range of plants and products that we stock developing all the time.

When it comes to the jobs to tackle in the garden, almost nothing has changed in a decade: the weather is just as unpredictable – maybe slightly more so now – plants still need to be sown, planted out, fed and watered, pruned and harvested, and the tools of the trade haven't changed much. All of which means that the same effort is still required to get the rewards from your garden, so you better just get on with some of these jobs.

### Planting/pruning

If you have any large, overgrown deciduous shrubs or trees that need renovation, prune them now. The rules of thumb for pruning are to remove the three Ds: dead, diseased and damaged wood. Cut back into live wood and remove no more than a third of the shrub each year. Also prune apples and pears now, but avoid pruning any of the *Prunus* family (such as plums and ornamental cherries) as they are susceptible to silver leaf disease if pruned now. Leave evergreens until the spring.

Make sure new growth of climbers is tied in to avoid damage from winter winds. For the same reason those shrubs that are normally hard-pruned in spring, such as *Cornus alba*, *Lavatera* and *Buddleia* can be cut back to half height to prevent wind rock damage.

### Bare-root hedging

Bare-root plants are now available, so for ease of planting, now is the time to plant your new hedge. Saves money, too. Autumn/early winter is a good time for taking root cuttings of herbaceous perennials such as *Dicentra* (bleeding-heart), *Eryngium* (sea holly) and *Phlox*. You can also take hardwood cuttings now from plants such as *Buddleia*, *Hydrangea* and *Cornus*.

Spring-flowering bulbs are still available and can be planted now for a great display. According to Monty Don on *Gardeners' World*, tulips do best when planted late so they don't start producing roots before the spring.

### Planted containers

Plants in containers are more susceptible to winter damage than those in the ground due largely to two factors: pots tend to hold more water and they are more exposed to the cold. It's a good idea to give them some extra attention by raising them off the ground to aid drainage, using specially made pot feet or, if you're less concerned about the look, a few half bricks or similar. Also check that the drainage holes are free from obstructions. Give them some protection from the frosts by moving them into a sheltered spot if you can and/or wrapping them in fleece when it's really cold.

### Alpines

Give your alpine plants a bit of extra attention. Their crowns are susceptible to rotting, so ensure they are free from fallen leaves to allow good air circulation. If they are in containers, try to keep the rain off them.

### Birds

By the turn of the year even an abundance of berries on trees and bushes will have mostly disappeared. Birds require high-energy foods during cold weather to survive the frosty nights and top up energy levels. Fatballs, sunflower seeds, peanuts, niger seeds and seed mixtures are all suitable for this time of year. Check that your feeders are regularly cleaned out to prevent a build-up of damp, mouldy seed, and then keep them full of fresh food. They also need a supply of water both to drink and to bathe in. Remember that a thriving bird population in your garden is not only attractive, but will help to keep the garden pests at bay.

Lastly, do you make some of your own Christmas table decorations? Try planting a few variegated holly bushes (such as *Ilex lawsoniana* or *I. Handsworth New Silver*) and in a couple of years you'll have a good supply of evergreen foliage to use.

GRAHAM SCOTT

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# From the Archive: the 1901 Censusæ

The Archive Group have been extracting Killearn data from the 1901 census which was taken on the night of Sunday, 31 March. The following is a selective summary of the information.

The number of people recorded in Killearn was 929, of whom 13 were visitors. This included a tea merchant's wife, originally from Ireland, with her three children who were all born in Australia. They were staying with the Gordon family at Blacklands Terrace.

There were 447 males and 482 females, with no other options in 1901. The average age was 31 and the oldest person was Mrs Janet Paul aged 96.

Of the 929, 369 were recorded as being born in Killearn and a further 136 were born elsewhere in Stirlingshire; 880 were born in Scotland, 16 in England and 19 in Ireland. There was also one person born in India – a footman at Ballikinrain Castle.

In the whole census, a total of 1,063 people were recorded as born in Killearn. This means that 694 were living elsewhere. Of these over 600 were living in Stirlingshire or neighbouring counties. It is not possible to tell whether any had moved to England or Wales, as birth towns were not recorded in the census for different countries.

Among those recorded as living elsewhere are the Wilsons of Carbeth. Dr David Wilson and his wife, together with their three boys and two nursemaids, were staying in a boarding house in St Andrews. He was probably doing work at the university, rather than taking a seaside holiday in March.

There were 244 married people. There were fewer than 122 married couples as some were in Killearn without their spouses. There were also 372 single people, 67 widows and widowers, and 246 children.

The number of separate households is recorded as 215. There were only 207 heads of household, but a few properties were occupied by a group of lodgers or by estate workers. There were also two tramps found sleeping in a shed!

Looking at family members, there were 112 wives, 198 sons and 204 daughters. In some households there were brothers, sisters, parents and even mothers-in-law recorded as living together. Of the 246 children under 16, there were 146 scholars and 79 of pre-school age. The remaining 21 had already started working or were not employed.

There are 107 people who are recorded as living-in servants. These include both domestic and farm servants. There are 75 other people whose occupation is recorded as either domestic service, gardener or farm employee, but they are living in their own homes.

Among other occupations, there were 67 farmers, including family workers, 19 railway workers, 14 carters, five shoe- and boot-makers, two ministers of religion, a schoolmaster, a music teacher, various employees at the distillery, a road surveyor, an auctioneer, four gamekeepers, two Inland Revenue officers and an hotel keeper.

Please contact the Archive Group if you would like a copy of our extraction of the census details.

## 31/03/1901 PAUL, JANET (Census 1901 482/00 003/00 002)

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Page 2]

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Subdiv.	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	ROOFS, In, Under, (A) or (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION as to Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birthday) Male Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employer, Master, or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.	WHERE BORN.	Qualif. of G. & E.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, feeble-minded.	Rooms with one or more Windows.			
														Parish of	Ward of	Baronetage of
8	Greenland Cottage	1	Peter Gray Christina D <sup>e</sup> Katie D <sup>e</sup> Christina D <sup>e</sup>	Head Wife Daughter Granddaughter	Mar S S S	68 67 29 29	Farm Servant Drapemaker Scholar	Master own account at home		Edinburgh Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn			3			
9	Downhead	1	Janet Paul William Hoar Martha D <sup>e</sup> Maggie D <sup>e</sup> Affie D <sup>e</sup> James Baillie William Bowman	Head Wife Daughter Daughter Daughter Niece Visitor	W Mar S S S S	96 60 58 28 28 28 28	House Keeper at Home Butcher (Housewife) at Home Private Operator			Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn			9			
11	Redyett Farm	1	James Dalgleish Annie D <sup>e</sup> Elizabeth D <sup>e</sup> James D <sup>e</sup> Ann Park	Head Wife Daughter Daughter Servant	Mar Mar S S S	44 44 28 28 28	Farmer General Servant (Domestic) D <sup>e</sup> D <sup>e</sup>	Employer		Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn			5			
12	Parthall Lodge	1	James M <sup>r</sup> Adam Janet D <sup>e</sup> James D <sup>e</sup> Alexander D <sup>e</sup>	Head Wife Son Son	Mar Mar S S	44 44 28 28	Blacksmith Blacksmith Blacksmith Blacksmith	Master Master Master Master		Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn			2			
13	Greenide Farm	1	Rob <sup>t</sup> Krutcher Sarah D <sup>e</sup> James Adams	Head Wife Servant	S S S	29 29 29	Farmer General Servant (Domestic)	Employer Master		Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn Stirlingshire Killearn			5			
16	Total of Houses...	6	Total of Males and Females...										12	12	Total of Windowed Rooms.	24

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Scor.—Sheet A.]

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## Curling – First Stones

The 2017/18 curling season for Strathendrick Curling Club started at the end of September. The main club commenced their season with the annual President v Vice-President (for this year, Past President) bonspiel. The result was a win for the President by 12 ends to 9. The team of Mary MacDonald, Helen Watson, Gill Smith and President Sandy Park came top, winning 5 ends. The bonspiel was followed by a supper at Pauline Holden's house and the annual quiz was won by Mary MacDonald, John O'Neill, Tony Flisch, Fiona Glass and Jean Verrall with a score of 17 out of 20.

This year we are playing a six-team double round robin league up to January and a five-team single round league in February and March. All matches will take place on Tuesday afternoons at The Peak, Stirling.

Ten members of the Ladies Section had a successful pre-season practice session. Our thanks to Fiona Glass for supervising this. The Ladies Section played their Opening Bonspiel with four teams. The result was a win for Rita Harris' team of Norma Thornton and Marion Richardson with 5 ends. Two teams tied for second place on 4 ends each. Isabel Robertson's team of Sally Macfarlane and Heather Burns took second place.



Anne Lang, Norma Thornton, Isabel Robertson and Rita Harris being presented with the Rowan Salver by Gill Smith

The Ladies are playing a three-team triple round robin up to the start of January, and a three-team double round robin from January to March. All matches take place on Thursday mornings at 10am at The Peak.

The Club will be involved in the usual Province games against other local clubs.

We had our usual bowling afternoon with Balfron Curling Club at Balfron Bowling Club in July, but our normal summer activities were limited this year.

We are keen to recruit new members to the club to keep the competitions competitive. The club is friendly and sociable and ideally suited for those who are retired or work part-time. It's also much better exercise than you expect and certainly makes the winter pass quickly.

If you would like to have a go at curling, contact Diana Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website ([www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk)).

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## New Class in the Village Hall

danceSing classes are the brainchild of trained ballet dancer and fitness guru Natalie Garry.

As the class name suggests, it is made up of singing with a trained music leader followed by a professionally trained dancer leading participants through different dance genres. No prior knowledge of music or dance is required.

Natalie says she is passionate about helping people find balance and wellbeing in their lives through singing, dancing, fun and friendship in a relaxed and inclusive environment.

Research points to the benefits of singing in a group. Who can argue with a possible reduction in the symptoms of stress and depression, an improvement in wellbeing, increased life expectancy, an improvement in the symptoms of Parkinson's and lung disease, not to mention a more regular heartbeat and better posture?

Combine all these potential benefits with cardio fitness, improving balance, strength and physical fitness as well as the sociable side of being in a class, and you can see how Natalie's passion for helping people can be met by her classes.



# KILLEARN TENNIS CLUB



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The future looks exciting for Killearn Tennis Club as another season winds down. We have ambitious plans to resurface all three of our all-weather courts next year, a major upgrade to our playing facilities. Keep an eye out for fundraising events in the coming months.

Our youngsters did us proud in September with an amazing third-place finish out of 12 teams in the finals of the Andy's Mini-Murray junior event, run at Gleneagles by Judy Murray. The Killearn kids joined forces with teammates from Stirling to become one of the top 10

teams in Scotland. Their success in such a fantastic event is a real tribute to their hard work as a team. The juniors' brilliant showing came after a highly successful, well-attended series of summer coaching camps. More kids' coaching sessions will run in November and the first week in December. Look out for posters around the village.

Some of our grown-up members have been busy in the Autumn League, but the club is about far more than competitive tennis. We would love to see more of our members at social tennis on

Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

As many of you know, the club provide the teas at the Country Market in the Village Hall. And on 23rd September, we used the event to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Our Macmillan Coffee Morning brought in a total of £139. A big thank you to all who helped on the day, and to all those who donated baking.

For more details on any of the club's activities, or how to join, visit [www.killearntennisclub.org.uk](http://www.killearntennisclub.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.



## Rugby Round-Up

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The 2017–18 season is proving to be one of the busiest ever for Strathendrick Rugby Club, with games, tours, skills development at all age groups, improvement of facilities and new initiatives coming thick and fast. Although the 1st XV exited the BT Shield competition early, they are now making steady progress up BT West League Division 2, having won promotion last term. Importantly a 2nd XV is also being re-established, allowing younger, older, returning and fringe players to enjoy a run-out.

New players are always welcome. For more information, please contact Nick Hawkins ([nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com](mailto:nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com)).

For the first time Balfroun High School, in close collaboration with Strathendrick RFC, have earned entry to the Scottish Schools Barbarian Conference – turning out five teams every weekend: S1, S2, U15, U16 and U18. This is a huge commitment and a great credit to the players, school and club coaches – and the Midis' parents.

Exciting tours are once again being planned this year and, as the *Courier* goes to press, a party of around 40

U18 boys, girls and coaches are about to embark on a tour to Venice, enjoying a coaching session with former Italian international, Marco Bortolami, watching a Benetton Treviso Pro 14 match, and playing regional opposition.

The Minis are enjoying a busy programme of tournaments, matches, coaching and visits to internationals. They recently provided the mascots and guard of honour at the Glasgow Warriors game against Benetton Treviso at Scotstoun – a proud moment for parents and all involved at Fintry.

In a new development, the first of a series of Tag Rugby Tournaments for local primary schools was initiated by SRFC at the Balfroun Campus, involving boys and girls most of whom were new to the game.

And a major long-term capital project has finally been completed at Fintry with the installation of new floodlights on the training area, providing much improved facilities on dark nights.

It is all go!

For more information on your local Rugby Club visit [www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc). NH



## Local curler to play in the Winter Olympics

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Balfroun girl Lauren Gray has been selected for the GB women's curling team in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea in February.

She is a member of Balfroun Curling Club, a former pupil of Balfroun High and a graduate of Glasgow University. She won a bronze medal at the Sochi Games in 2014 where she was the reserve player.



## What happened to our water?

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Over the summer, Killearn residents will have noticed a very distinctive earthy or musty odour and taste to our water. This was first reported to Scottish Water in early August, and steps have been taken to reduce the cause.

The earthy taste and odour is due to geosmin. This is a harmless, naturally occurring organic compound associated with the breakdown of algae and other micro-organisms in the raw water sources. It is present in some foods such as beetroot, spinach and mushrooms, and contributes to the strong scent that occurs in the air when rain falls after a dry spell of weather or when soil is disturbed. It is not a seasonal issue and cannot be predicted when or where an outbreak will occur. Although the taste and odour can be unpleasant, geosmin is not harmful to health.

Killearn's water supply comes from Carron Valley Water Treatment Works. Geosmin is not known to have occurred before at Carron Valley and as it is a single reservoir, supply could not be switched to another source.

Geosmin cannot be removed by conventional water treatment processes. However, Scottish Water has carried out flushing as well as introducing alternative water supplies from other parts of its system and has started additional filtration treatment, powdered activated carbon, whereby the geosmin adheres to the carbon. When first reported, the levels of geosmin were 20 nanogrammes (ng) per litre (or parts per trillion). The threshold for human detection is approximately 15ng per litre, although variations in perception of taste or odour may result in some people detecting geosmin at concentrations as low as 5ng per litre in drinking water.

At the time of writing, the levels are 4ng, and daily testing continues. Only a sensitive palate may now still detect this taste.

The customer contact centre for Scottish Water operates all day every day, and problems can be reported on 0800 0778778. GS

## James Fleming OBE

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The news of the death at Strathcarron Hospice of Jim Fleming was received through the area with great sorrow. He was a former rector of Balfron High School, where he led the school with wisdom and vision. He knew every pupil and every parent by name and was highly respected and loved by those who learned from him and by colleagues who worked with him. He was a head teacher par excellence. He was awarded the OBE for services to education and also Rotary's Paul Harris Award in recognition of his work. The many published tributes to him speak of his inspirational legacy.

## Dennis Pattenden 1945 – 2017

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Dennis was born in Dunfermline and was the eldest of two children. He had a happy childhood and soon after leaving Dunfermline High School he took up a post in the world of insurance. Outside of work he was an enthusiastic member of Dunfermline Ski Club and it was through the ski club that he met Dorothy. They married in 1970 and, via Dundee, Norwich and Balerno, moved to Killearn in 1979. Dennis was a proud dad to Iain, Siân and Ross, and he cherished his grandchildren, Isla and Annie.

During his years in Killearn, Dennis was employed at Norwich Union in Glasgow and then as a lecturer in risk management and financial services at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Dennis thoroughly enjoyed life in the village and was an active member in a number of local groups and societies including the Round Table, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick, the Classic Car Club and the Blane Valley Burns Club, to name but a few. Dennis adored the works of Robert Burns and was well known for his lively performances of *Tam O'Shanter*.

Dennis had a wide range of interests. He was a keen reader and enjoyed spending time outdoors exploring the local walks in the area and also participating in marathon running, cycling and, of course, skiing. In later life, he took up golf with great gusto and spent many hours with friends at Balfron golf course, honing his swing. Another activity he enjoyed in later years was volunteering as a guide at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow and Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House in Helensburgh. He delighted in helping visitors find their way round the exhibits and sharing his interest in art and Scottish history.

A celebration of his life was held at Cardross Crematorium. Donations were made to Cancer Research UK. For this, the family would like to express their thanks.

His family and friends remember him as an active, quick-witted, sociable and generous person, and he will be sorely missed. THE PATTENDEN FAMILY

## Alice Lilburn 1941 – 2017

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Alice Lilburn was born and brought up in Yoker where, at the primary school and later at Victoria Drive Senior Secondary, she proved a very able pupil, enjoying her schooldays and her family life with the added companionship of close cousins. She first married Jimmy, a friend from her school days and together they had two daughters, Audrey

and Karen, to whom she was a devoted mother. Although the marriage ended after 33 years, she and Jimmy retained a warm and friendly relationship.

In the world of work, Alice's first employer was Glasgow Corporation Transport Department; she moved on to other jobs until in 1967 she joined McLaren Dick & Co., which was to become the biggest firm of loss adjusters in the UK. Here she began as a book keeper and, over the years, progressed to Office Manager and finally became PA to Laurie Lilburn, when he became chairman. Her exceptional ability together with her wonderfully warm and caring personality endeared her to all, and her drive and loyalty to the firm played a major role in the expansion and success of the company. In the early years of computer use in the 1980s, Alice

was selected to train office staff throughout the country, and her contribution enabled the company to get ahead of their competitors and to flourish. Known as Auntie Alice to the office staff, she was a reliable source of encouragement and support. When an employee was experiencing problems, she often went far beyond expectations in providing just the right help needed.

She was an affectionate and dependable source of help to Laurie's family, especially at the time of his first wife's final illness and after her death.

The closeness between Alice and Laurie blossomed and they married in 1995, beginning what was to be 22 years of loving partnership, he acquiring two step-daughters and she, a step-son, Kevin. Alice and Laurie lived first in Sallochy House, and then moved to Killlearn where they settled happily, made friends, took up bridge, travelled and played golf. Alice was an exceptional cook and delighted in entertaining. She was also talented out of doors and created a beautiful garden surrounding their house in Lampson Road. Above all, she adored dogs, supported animal charities, and rescued and re-homed many dogs over the years. It was her greatest delight to walk her two pet dogs, Suzie and Chocky, plus their successors on Loch Lomondside, in Balloch Park or at Mugdock, and only her final illness brought this to an end.

Alice was a woman of great warmth, efficiency and devotion in both her business and her personal life. This was exemplified when Laurie fell ill and she organised, in a few short weeks, the conversion of their house and garden which allowed him to return home from hospital well before his expected discharge. Her passing is greatly mourned by all who knew her.

## Barry Mackay 1975 – 2017

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The village was shocked and greatly saddened to learn of the death of Barry Mackay who died unexpectedly at an early age.

Barry, son of Kay and brother of Jemma, was born and brought up in Killlearn, receiving his education at Killlearn Primary and Balfron High School. He was an enthusiastic follower and player of football and loved nothing more than kicking a ball around the park with his friends. He studied at Glasgow Caledonian University gaining BA (Hons) in social sciences. After gaining experience in various posts, he made the decision to set up his own cleaning business. He made a success of this, his friendly and easy personality adding to his popularity with his clients.

He met Donna McCallum at a social event in Stirling and, having exchanged only names, realised later he had no way of contacting her. Nothing daunted, he phoned every household of the same surname he could find in the telephone directory. His efforts were eventually rewarded, he spoke to Donna, asked her to meet with him, and that was the beginning of a love affair.

They set up home together in Tullibody, married in 2008 and a son, Liam, and a daughter, Olivia, were born to complete their family. Barry was a loving and devoted husband and father, taking great joy in his growing children.

His sudden death leaves his family and his many friends bereft. His funeral, which filled Falkirk Crematorium, was attended by a vast number of family members, friends of many years, neighbours and clients from Killlearn and beyond. At the end of the service, in memory of Barry, £670 was donated for the intensive care unit at the Royal Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert. It was a testament to the regard in which he was held and the sense of loss in our community. BP



## Rosemary Callander 1938 – 2017



Rosemary Nita Callander spent her early years in Kippen where her parents had a house. She initially went to Balfroun Primary School and then went on to complete her education at Craigmount School.

Her first job was as a secretary at the United States embassy in Glasgow from which she later moved on to be a passenger agent with Air Canada.

She met Frank at a social event at a Glasgow restaurant and before long romance blossomed. They were married in 1967 in Glasgow Cathedral where Rosie was a lifetime member. Their marriage was blessed with the birth of a daughter, Samantha, who gave them great joy. They came to Killearn in 1972 and made their home in Napier Road, where they led a happy family life.

Rosie, a talented dressmaker with a discerning eye for elegance, set up her own business – the dress shop ‘Gazebo’ at the Aizle, which proved a valued attraction in the locality. She also used her skills with a needle in working with soft furnishings. She was a good golfer, playing at Buchanan Castle Golf Club, and was a much valued member of the Monday Club, which she served as an efficient treasurer for very many

years. Bridge too, was an interest which kept her in contact with a large circle of friends and, with Frank, she enjoyed outings with the Strathendrick Classic Car Club.

Sorrow struck the family in 2008 when Samantha, who was now married with two young sons, died of cancer while only in her 30s. This loss was the greatest blow to her parents which called upon their deep reserves of bravery and resilience to face the future.

In retirement, Rosie, with Frank, enjoyed their cruise holidays and found much fascination in visiting many far-off places.

News of her death shocked the community. Although, essentially a rather private person, Rosie was a popular and much loved friend. She had a reputation for being totally reliable and efficient, her sense of humour made her fun to be with and, in the face of adversity, she was extraordinarily brave.

BP



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# John Jamieson Blanche OBE 1929 – 2017

John Blanche was born in Paisley on 10 July 1929 and was baptised in Paisley Abbey. When they were young, his children thought their father had been born in the Abbey and would always exclaim, ‘that’s where Dad was born!’ when passing it. He attended Glasgow Academy, then Strathallan School and went on to study accountancy. Like most of his generation, he had a compulsory two years of National Service which he spent with the Signal Corps, mainly in Germany, and it was a period of his life of which he was very proud and held fond memories.



The family’s first move from Pollockshields was to Loch Ard near Aberfoyle where the large garden of Daldrishaig required John to spend much of his spare time attacking the rampant rhododendrons. After many happy years there, they moved to Boquhan in 2008, and quickly made new friends and entered into the life of the community.

John had a keen intellect, researched his interests in Scottish and British politics thoroughly and liked nothing more than the challenge of a good debate. He was proud of his Shetlandic ancestry and in 2012 published *From the Far Haaf to the Sma’ Half*, an

Following his discharge from the army, he went into his father’s business, Bailey’s – a chain of licensed grocers throughout Central Scotland. During that time, John met a special young lady, Fiona Gordon, at a dance, offered her a biscuit and married her a year later. As his mother-in-law commented, ‘It must have been a very special biscuit.’ The couple settled in Pollockshields where the arrival of Graham and Nicola completed their family. As a father, he was always there with help and support, but never forced his children to follow a route along which they did not wish to travel.

When his father sold the business to Victoria Wines, John went to work with Allied Breweries, the parent company. Continuing to work within the whisky trade, John eventually became Chairman of Teacher’s Whisky, a post which afforded him the opportunity to travel worldwide. John loved travel, albeit the pace of life was sometimes a little hectic. Fiona accompanied him once, but after being left bored in a Miami hotel room because the streets were considered unsafe, she decided that John’s business travel should be solo. Joint travel was a passion in retirement, the couple visiting India, China, the United States and Europe. John was appointed Chairman of the Glasgow Junior Chamber where he made many lifelong friends, and later moved on to become Chair of the Scottish Junior Chamber. In 1989, he was appointed Deacon Convener of Trades House. In retirement, he served on the Board of NHS Scotland. John was awarded an OBE in 1992.

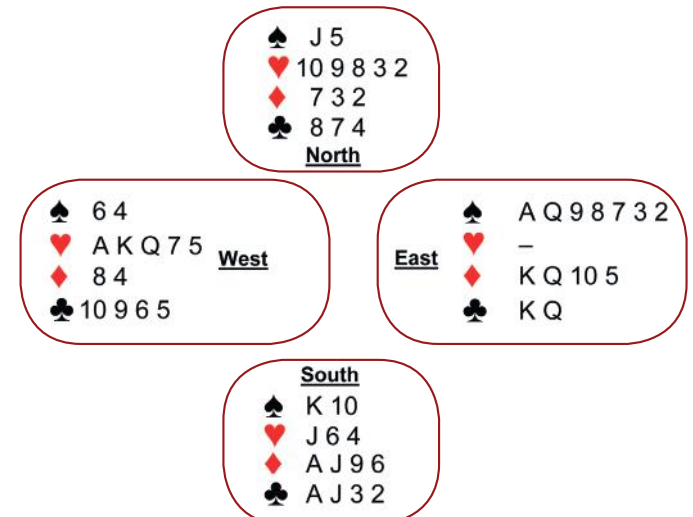
account his family’s journey, over three generations, from Shetland to Edinburgh to Glasgow. He was a regular writer of letters to *The Herald*; indeed his last was published on the day he died, 31 July 2017. He was well loved and well respected and will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Fiona, daughter Nicola, son Graham, and grandsons Richard and Edward.

JIM ALLAN

## Bridge by Zorro – solution to the problem on page 19

As South, if you play another Club, declarer can arrange to ruff a Diamond on the table and make West’s Heart tricks. So that won’t work. But there is one unlikely possibility. If South is willing to stake everything on finding Declarer void in Hearts, he can lead a trump! This gives up his sure trump trick, but the trick comes back with interest when Declarer cannot get to Dummy and has to lose a further three diamond tricks.

The full hands were:



(With acknowledgement to Harold Franklin for his selection of hand and his notes.)

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# PRIZE CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Set by PeeWit

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

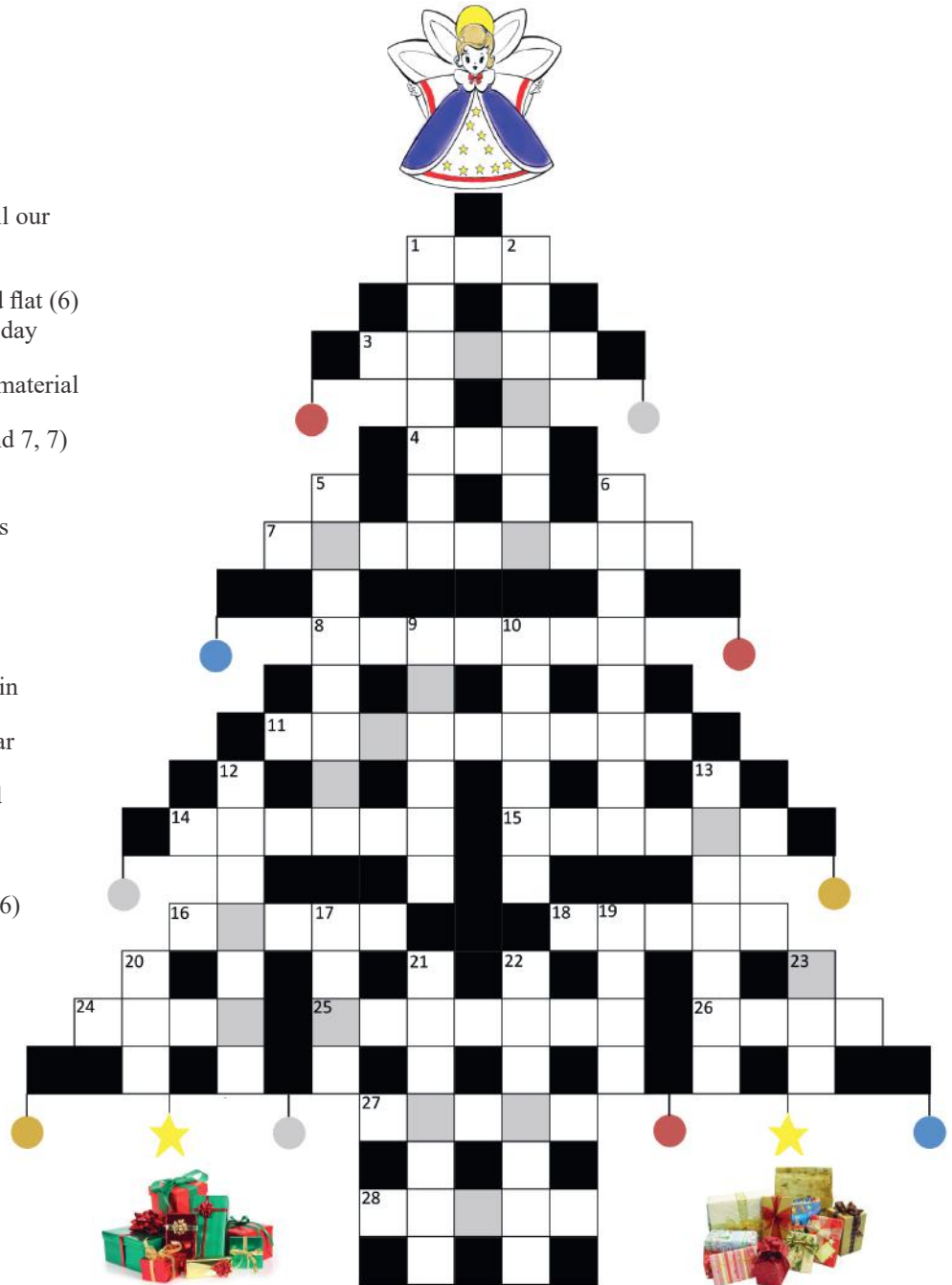
Three of the clues without a definition are places to eat in Killearn with advertisements in this edition.

## ACROSS

- 1 Cooker for an eastern potentate (3)
- 3,8 Trio of nuns (5,7)
- 4 Second sight in a thespian (3)
- 7 See 11 across
- 8 See 3 across
- 11,7 The *Courier* sends this wish to all our readers (9,9)
- 14 Peewit is a dog! (6)
- 15 Communication to owner of rented flat (6)
- 16, 28 How to see the Queen on 11ac day (3,2,3,2)
- 18 Do this to the turkey with any old material (5)
- 24, 25, 12 Urban and rural plans (4 and 7, 7)
- 25 See 24 across
- 26 See 23 down
- 27 Insect followed by the French brass instrument (5)
- 28 See 16 across

## DOWN

- 1 Maybe the late runner (7)
- 2 Short singer meets Greek character in the theatre (7)
- 5 Senior Officer wears metal headgear (8)
- 6 Aghast when first hymn is replaced by 4 across long ago (4,4)
- 9 Winter sportsmen run in the heavens (6)
- 10 Praises old charges without a line (6)
- 12 See 24 across
- 13 A liquid often given at 11ac was sent so I heard (7)
- 17 Composer is back in a Dutch cabin (4)
- 19 Playthings in the film 'Toy Story' (4)
- 20 Utensil drug (3)
- 21 Guardians of the harem shun cutie without it (7)
- 22 Water company is useful (7)
- 23, 26 Ancient grinder (3, 4)



**Winner of the last crossword:** Margaret Hyland, Waikanae Beach 5036, New Zealand.

Unfortunately the prize does not include travel to the theatre, so she has elected her sister, Catherine Davidson-Carr, who lives in Killearn, to receive the prize. Did we deliberately select Margaret to show the international reach of the *Courier*? No, she was selected fair and square at random. Each correct entry is given a number in sequence and then an online random number generator comes up with the winning number.

## How to Enter

Take the letters in the grey squares. They are an anagram of something that is a good read (8,7). Solve it and place your solution in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to [competition@kfcf.co.uk](mailto:competition@kfcf.co.uk) with your name, address and a contact phone number.

**Solution to the last crossword:** Across: 1 Killearn Hotel; 8 theatre; 9 signs; 10 Spar; 11 dispirit; 13 endure; 14 apeman; 17 triptych; 19 plea; 21 hater; 22 unhitch; 24 Post Office van; Down: 1 kit; 2 leeward; 3 eats; 4 reekie; 5 hosepipe; 6 Tiger; 7 Lusitania; 10 sweatshop; 12 oratorio; 15 molotov; 16 scruff; 18 iotas; 20 chic; 23 hen;

# Tales of the Unexpected

One of the wildlife highlights of the year, for me at least, was the discovery of a new moth for Stirlingshire. On the night of 31 August 2017, I trapped a male Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* at the house (pictured right). This is a migrant moth that breeds in southern Europe and North Africa, and reaches southern England in variable numbers every year. But it is a much rarer visitor further north, with very few individuals ever reaching Scotland. While it has been recorded before in Aberfoyle (1969) and Gartocharn (1983), neither of these sites is in the 'vice county' recording area of Stirlingshire. But



in 2013. This moth is much commoner further south, but it is expanding its range northwards and we can expect to record it here more and more frequently as time goes on.

Two other interesting events brought to my attention over 2017 involved wildfowl. The first was the young whooper swan that appeared on the Blane Water during



Killlearn is and has now put this moth on the Stirlingshire map.

The Vestal was not the only moth of interest this year. On 24 May, I found an alder moth (pictured left) on the side of the moth trap, a species which I believe has only been recorded once before in Stirlingshire

the summer and may have been a sick or injured bird unable to migrate north to breeding grounds in Iceland in the spring. However, feral birds also breed locally from time to time, and this may account for its unseasonal occurrence.

Then there was the remarkable tale of a goosander nesting in the chimney of a house at Dumgoyne for the second year in a row. This species of duck generally nests in tree holes, but will occasionally choose similar substitutes such as chimneys. The challenge for the adult birds in this case was guiding the ducklings safely out of the chimney pot, down the roof and on to the ground – before hurriedly leading them to the nearest river and safety from predators.

MARTIN CULSHAW

## CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH

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

You should find 10 words associated with Christmas. Nine words are **Carols, Holly, Mistletoe, Parties, Presents, Reindeer, Santa, Tree, Turkey.**

Find the 10th word, write it down and send it to the *Courier* for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 or under.

Place your solution in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to [competition@kfc.co.uk](mailto:competition@kfc.co.uk) with your name, address, age and a contact phone number.

**Winner of the Last Word Search:** Murdie McKellar (age 6)

three sisters bake

# A THREE SISTERS BAKE

## CHRISTMAS

### IS IT TOO EARLY TO SAY THE C WORD??

Forgive us, but we've been planning, plotting and designing our Christmas makeover since July and are beginning to burst at the seams as the secrets get bigger and more sparkly. 2017 has seen the Three Sisters Bake immediate family grow by two with the arrival of babies Brodie and Finlay.

That means that on Christmas Day this year, the wee ones very nearly outweigh the big ones!! Seeing the magic of Christmas through our Baby Bake's eyes has catapulted us back to early memories of pantomimes, explosive anticipation for the arrival of Santa, nativity plays, carrots and milk for Rudolph, a mental image so vivid of Lapland....

We decided we're really (arguably!) never too old for that hopeless excitement that December brings the little people. And so, we welcome you to join us as we transform our cafes in to a Three Sisters Bake festive wonderland- suitable for all ages.

\*disclaimer you WILL leave with excitement in your soul and festive pizzazz in your heart- the kind you felt when you were 5!

## KIDS EVENTS

### STORYTIME BRUNCH WITH MRS CLAUS-

Mrs Claus would like to invite you to join her for a Storytime Brunch!

Mrs Claus's Christmas brunch includes:

- A choice of breakfast dishes from our Festive brunch menu
- Story time with Mrs Claus
- Letter writing to santa (includes a response letter directly from the North Pole!)
- A visit to see Mrs Claus' in her kitchen grotto
- A Christmas gift from Mrs Claus
- Digital photos taken by our photographer will be added to a Three Sisters Bake gallery.

### LITTLE ELVES CRAFTAFTERNOON TEA-

Our Christmas elves are falling behind in the workshop and need your help to complete their list of jobs for Santa!! Help the Elves finish off their Christmas cards, decorate Mrs Claus's baking, and create festive decorations!

Craftafternoon Tea includes:

- Christmas Afternoon Tea
- Christmas empire biscuit decorating with Three Sisters Bake's team of elves
- Festive crafts
- Letter writing to Santa, including a personalised letter of reply!
- Elfie selfies in our festive photobooth
- Christmas gift from the elves



## GIFTS

Our shelves are restocked with stocking fillers and gifts for ALL ages (and the most awkward, has everything, Dad!!!)

- Three Sisters Bake cookbook
- Brownie boxes
- Hand picked hamper

## CELEBRATE

Isn't the best thing about December that you need no reason to celebrate- it is a month long PARTY. Now we love a turkey dinner, but we dare say by Christmas day we are getting a little weary of the stuff. So, we thought long and hard what we'd rather feast on all December long.... the unanimous answer was CAKE. This year, we launch our thoroughly Festive Afternoon Tea!



See our website for further info on party season outside catering and exclusive Christmas wonderland venue hire!!!!

[threesistersbake.co.uk](http://threesistersbake.co.uk) 0333 344 7344 [info@threesistersbake.co.uk](mailto:info@threesistersbake.co.uk)

