



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 22

SPRING 2012

£1



Golden Daffodils by Marion Drummond

Our *Spring Edition* celebrates a wealth of talent in art, business, music, sport, writing, as well as a lively spirit of adventure in our young people: a society of many interests willing to help itself.

Dear Editor

Can I take this opportunity to say how much my family and I appreciated all the lovely flowers, cards, touching letters and help in so many ways, from such a caring community, also the support of all our friends at the Celebration of Life Service for Tom in Killearn Kirk and afterwards at Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

We are overwhelmed by the love shown to us by so many people, before and after Tom's sudden, sad death on 27 December 2011 and thank you all so very much.

Donations for Robin House amounted to £1,130 – a magnificent gesture.

Sheila Blyth and family

Dear Sir

A message to dog owners: when you have scooped that poop, please take it home with you and dispose of it responsibly. Disgusting little plastic parcels are being left at the side of pavements and footpaths with increasing frequency and, unlike an exposed turd, they do not biodegrade.

Yours faithfully

A pedestrian

This comes down to a matter of common sense. If your dog fouls on the street, on a footpath or used area of grass, then obviously bag it and bin it, and never ever leave the filled bag behind. If however you are in open country, then follow the English National Trust code of 'stick and flick' – knock the offending item into the rough where nature's refuse collectors will deal with it. Remember binned waste goes into landfill, so it is better left to rot unless it is somewhere which would cause offence.

PW

Dear Editor

As always, I looked forward to the Killearn Courier and read it through with my usual enjoyment. Then came the crossword, which I always enjoy. First answer I put in was for 4 down: 'I'm a little...' which was put in confidently in pen - obviously 'teapot'. I well remember the little rhyme from childhood, the actions being standing with one hand on hip, elbow out (the handle) and the other hand stretched out to the side (the spout).

I was getting on fine with every other corner of the crossword but couldn't seem to get anything to fit my first word. But I knew it was correct. What else could it possibly be? Now I see that the only word that fits comfortably is 'teacup'! Not the childhood ditty that I remember. Still, at least the crossword is now complete and I can pop it into Spar and just hope that something about it is correct.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Puzzled (*but not cross*)

(or if you prefer, Priscilla Douglas)

Oh dear, mea culpa. I cannot believe I did that, because I too remember doing the actions with both children and grandchildren. I'll just have to blame my crossword editor – Mrs Peewit! Although in defence, I did find a verse that started 'I'm a little tea cup nice and round'!

I am pleased you enjoy the crossword and even more that you hand it in. Sorry you weren't first out this edition.

Peewit

Dear Editor

I suppose you will wax lyrical (again) about the approaching halcyon spring and summers days when we can sit out in our gardens enjoying the sunshine and with a glass of something or other in our hands.

Well, let me tell you that it sometimes does not work like that because of inconsiderate neighbours who have allowed their trees and hedges to grow unfettered to such an extent that the merest blink of sunshine keeking through is something to be chased round the garden as the sun moves across the sky.

Killearn is such a beautiful place with stunning views. It is a village that lends itself to tranquillity; to be enjoyed by its residents at peace with the world in their gardens without being subjected to being overshadowed by these monstrosities.

Can I ask through your pages that residents with neglected trees and hedges become good neighbours and think of the families next door and do something about the height and state of their offending 'blockers of light'?

The people next door are easily recognized; they've all got pale faces!

Yours

Fair Scunnered,

New Endrick Road

PS I enclose a photograph to give you and your readers an idea of how bad things can become.



There is some heartening news on the horizon; there is a move by an MSP to get a Bill through the Scottish Parliament to tackle this very issue.

Ed.

Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 11 August 2012.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 6 July 2012. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 6 July 2012. Send them to:

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Editorial

Hello there. Here we are at the start of another year and hopefully, by the time you read this, winter will be behind us and the flowers of spring will be flourishing through frost-free, snow free and rain free soil. Although we seem to have experienced less snow and frost than has been the case in previous years, we have certainly had more than our fair share of wind and rain, the effects of which are mentioned in this issue.

There is an update on the Village Hall development and it looks as if work will be starting this summer. The centre pages tell you all about this year's Hoolie and if you think you are not fit enough to be able to take part in the Hoolie run, you'll find details of some people who could help you inside.. The last one proved to be a really enjoyable and very successful event and this one promises to be even better.

We've tried something different for our front page. Instead of our usual picturesque scenes, we thought you'd appreciate a vivid touch of spring. It was painted by one of our local artists, some of whom are mentioned on pages 10 and 11.

A couple of articles from the Scouts and Boys Brigade seek volunteers to help with the running of their organizations. The curious thing about people helping out in the Community is that we are very good at some things and pretty bad at others. The things we are good at include a massive clearing of snowbound streets by neighbours last winter, clearing fallen trees in January and keeping an eye out for suspicious people on our streets. (*See Constable McNally's article on page 26*).

What we're not very good at is helping out with many organizations, particularly ones involving our young people, to the extent that some have already folded and others are in danger of doing the same. This is a great pity, particularly as organizations such as these help young people develop and give them a sense of purpose. So, if you can spare a few hours, join in; it's actually quite good fun!

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



- | | |
|------------|---|
| 12 March | Talk by Judy Urquhart, daughter of General Urquhart, 'Road to Arnhem' – St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle, 7.30 p.m. Tickets on the door or from Mark Seymour (01786 870710) or email mark@thorntreebarn.co.uk
<i>Rotary Club</i> meeting. Black Bull, 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m., thereafter every Monday. Contact Steve Holden (550764). |
| 15 March | <i>Thursday Club</i> meeting. Church Hall, 2 p.m. and every Thursday until 31 May, except 5 April. Contact Betty Smith (550486). |
| 16 March | <i>Killearn Primary PTA</i> Killearn's Got Talent. Killearn Primary School, 7 p.m.– 9 p.m.
<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 p.m.
<i>Killearn Golden Years Club</i> Annual Dinner. Black Bull, 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. |
| 18 March | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Spring Concert. Killearn Kirk, 7 p.m. Includes <i>Little Organ Mass</i> by Haydn and <i>Lux Aeterna</i> by Lauridsen. Tickets from choir members, at the door or from Pat Ashworth (550074). |
| 19 March | <i>SWRI</i> Group meeting at Dumgoyne. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. |
| 21 March | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Black Bull, 8 p.m. <i>Please note change of venue for this month only.</i> |
| 22 March | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Douglas Jackson, 'The Last Fort – Doune's Roman Fort'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m.
<i>Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society</i> . Four short funny plays. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30 p.m. Tickets at door or phone Liz Brown (860078). |
| 24 March | <i>Friends of Guiding</i> Spring Fair. Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. |
| 31 March | <i>Get Reel</i> Family Concert and Ceilidh with Amy Geddes and her band. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. Also workshops in the afternoon. Contact Sara Melville (550770). |
| 1 April | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Palm Sunday Family Service. Killearn Kirk, 10.30 p.m. |
| 4 April | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Holy Week Service. Killearn Kirk, 7.30 p.m. |
| 5 April | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Maundy Communion Service. Killearn Kirk, 7.30 p.m. |
| 6 April | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Good Friday Service. Killearn Kirk, 7.30 p.m. |
| 8 April | <i>Killearn Kirk</i> Easter Sunday Service. Killearn Kirk, 10.30 a.m. |
| 13 April | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> – <i>Great White Silence</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 p.m. |
| 16 April | <i>SWRI</i> talk by Mark Gibson about the development of Edenmill. McLintock Hall, Balfron, 7.30 p.m. |
| 18 April | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m. |
| 26 April | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Kitty Walker, 'The Britannia Panopticon'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.15 p.m. Cheese and wine, with AGM at the end of the evening. |
| 29 April | <i>Inner Wheel</i> sponsored Charity Family Walk. Blanefield to Killearn via the pipe track in aid of Riding for the Disabled. Contact Fiona Glass (550646) or Rita Harris (550456). |
| 3 May | Local council elections. Church Hall, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. |
| 11 May | <i>Killearn Primary PTA</i> . Bag-2-School. |
| 12 May | <i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> and <i>Friends of Guiding</i> Gardeners' Market and Coffee Morning. Church Hall, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. |
| 16 May | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m. |
| 21 May | <i>SWRI</i> baking demonstration by Morag Millar, McLintock Hall, Balfron, 7.30 p.m. |
| 9 June | <i>Killearn Primary PTA</i> BBQ. School grounds, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
<i>Killearn Golden Years Club</i> coach outing. |
| 10–16 June | <i>Killearn Hoolie</i> (see centre pages). |
| 20 June | <i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m. |
| 25 August | <i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> Annual Show. Church and Church Hall, 2 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. |

If you have any dates for the August 2012 issue of the Diary (end of August through to November), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net

Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Annual Show



Plans for the Annual Show are on the move. This year, with the Village Hall out of action, we faced the unappealing prospect of grappling with guy ropes and marquees until we received the very kind offer to use Killearn Church and Church Hall. We are looking forward to arranging our displays in such a beautiful space.

As this year sees the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee we have decided to use this and the Coronation as our theme for 2012. We will be asking all the children in the village to make a crown to enter in our special competition. There will also be a class for a cake decorated for the coronation and one for a flower exhibit entitled 'Diamond Jubilee'.

As well as entries in the Show we plan to continue the theme by arranging a display of memorabilia from the early Fifties. We are looking for your help with this – do you have any objects from the time which you could lend to us, anything at all, from household items to clothes and particularly photos of Coronation parties and events. If you can help please give Glenda a call (550142).

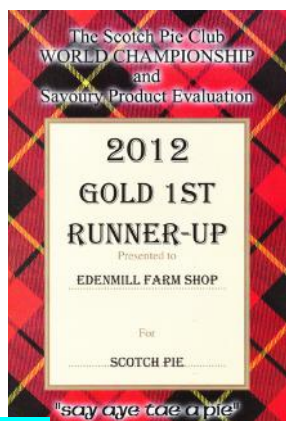
We have also introduced a new class called Compact Garden. We will provide a frame 30" x 20" x 6" high. You just design an outdoor garden to fit and bring everything along on the day to fill the space. A good class for a family, group of friends or organization to enter. Look out for more details in the Show schedule which will be for sale from May.



As always we need more help with setting up and taking down the Show and serving teas and so forth on the day. If you can help in any way, please give Grant a call (440592).

The Show will be in Killearn Church and Church Hall on Saturday, 25 August, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and we look forward to seeing you there.

Award for Local Business



Edenmill Farm's scotch pie received the runners up prize at the World Championships, presented by the Scotch Pie Club. Edenmill's Mark Gibson was delighted with this recognition of one of the company's best selling products. The award was made in January and is seen as a boost to this local rural business. Similarly Edenmill have secured a trial deal with C. J. Lang which should see Edenmill's meat, pies, sausages and other products available on a rolling programme in selected SPAR shops within the Glasgow area. This fits with Edenmill's aim to have locally produced meat products available within 50 miles of source. In the current economic climate, it is particularly good to hear about a boost to the local rural economy.

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(This list is not exhaustive, if you do not see your job listed just phone.)

Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583

Challis – Richardson



Laura Challis from Killearn married Chris Richardson from Wiltshire on 5 November in Killearn Parish Church. Chris works as a marketing controller in Stirling and Laura is an account executive with a London-based company. The newlyweds have set up home in Killearn

Jane Wilson Retires

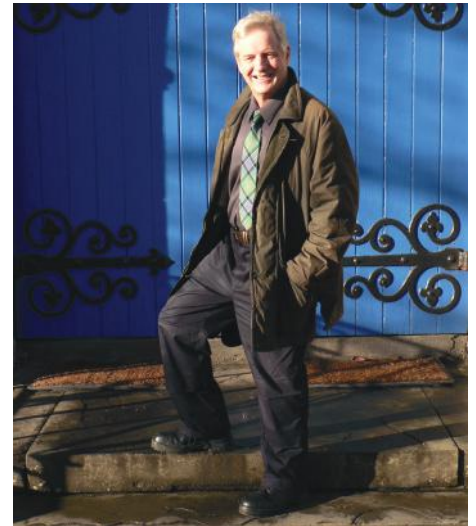


Jane Wilson of Country Kitchen recently hung up her apron after 35 years in business. Based at her home in Heron's Court, Jane has delighted us with her gourmet frozen food which has aided many a local dinner party over the years and made Christmas that bit less stressful. Jane and her team catered for events and weddings, but wound up this part of the business a couple of years ago, latterly concentrating on selling frozen dishes from the Country Kitchen.

Having well and truly reached retirement age, Jane is looking forward to Life beyond Retirement and in particular, having time to enjoy her daughter's wedding preparations this year. Writing her own cookbook is on the agenda and hopefully that will enable us to continue to enjoy Country Kitchen fare. Jane has enjoyed her catering life immensely and will miss seeing everyone, and the chat. She would like to thank all her loyal customers for coming to Heron's Court over the many years, and is sad that no one ventured to take over the business to enable the service to continue.

We wish Jane a happy and fulfilling retirement

New Church Officer



Killearn Kirk has a new Church Officer following the retirement of Angus Macdonald. Local man Ian Sinclair stepped into the post in November. Ian stayed in the Village all his life and is best known to us as the softly spoken piper who has for years played the pipes at Remembrance Day, weddings and Burns events and has tutored many local youngsters in the chanter and pipes.

Along with his love of traditional Scottish music, Ian is an accomplished artist, painting in acrylics and tutoring watercolours at Gartmore House. His varied life has seen him behind the wheel of the Number 10 bus and now as a relief janitor for Stirling Council.

Ian has enjoyed being part of the Kirk community throughout his life and brings to the job not only his janitorial experience but also a helpful attitude and a deep understanding of and affection for his home community. He is enjoying his new post and says that the friendly people along with the beautiful church building make it a joy to work there.



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KCFC Path Group News

On Saturday, 29 October, the Path Group committee and volunteers, led by Dougie Flynn, Stirling Council Ranger, carried out repair work on the West Highland Way section between Drumbeg Loan and Station Road (*photo below*). The work included widening of the path at pinch points, cutting back vegetation, and drainage and resurfacing of soft sections to make it safer for walkers and cyclists.



It poured with cold rain throughout the day. Despite the bad weather, a lot of useful work was done and regardless of the soaking, everyone enjoyed the experience and the sense of achievement. We also had the assistance of Sam, Fiona and Bob, who came all the way from Falkirk to join in the fun.

The recently upgraded section of the path between the Branziert and the end of Ibert Road was badly damaged by the unprecedented floods on 29 November when a large amount of the path material was swept away. On a Wednesday and Saturday in mid January, members of the Path committee and volunteers rebuilt a retaining wall and re-laid two tons of hardcore (*photos right*). Over the two days a total of 12 people were involved, including the valuable assistance of Andy MacKay and one of his senior Ballikinrain boys.

The weather since last summer has resulted in a huge amount of damage, and we can achieve very little in the way of repairs with our modest resources and limited budget. In spite of this many hands make light work, and we are always looking for more volunteers to help us when we organize work days. We know that a lot of people use the many paths in our area. Why would you stay in this beautiful part of Scotland and not enjoy walking along the many paths? If you are one of these walkers and would like to offer your services our secretary, Alice Bell (440320) or Volunteer Liaison Mike Gray (550962) would be delighted to hear from you. There is a very good chance that you will find the experience rewarding and good fun, too!



NMcN



1st Killearn Boys' Brigade

Killearn Boys' Brigade has been very busy since the start of the 2011–12 session. In addition to our usual meeting nights in the Church Hall where we have had a whole variety of games nights, quizzes and have even planted bulbs, we have also been out and about swimming at Balfron, climbing at the Glasgow climbing centre and delivering Christmas cards with the Guides. We also had a night skiing at Sno!zone, Braehead, which should have prepared the boys for the annual ski weekend which, if there has been enough snow, should have just taken place as *The Courier* goes to press.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2011, Killearn and the Boys' Brigade lost a much valued friend and supporter in our former captain George Davison. The 1st Killearn Boys' Brigade would like to thank the Davison family for a very kind and generous donation that they made to the company in memory of George. The money will be used in a variety of ways – to buy new equipment, help subsidize events and to recruit more boys to join the company. If any boys would like to join, BB meets on Thursday evenings from 6.45–7.45 for boys in P1–P6, and from 7.45–9.30 for boys in P7–S6.

If you need more information, contact Neil Evans (550715) or just come along on a Thursday night.



Your Life Career Coaching



Your Life Career Coaching is a new business venture by Killearn's Heather McArthur. In the current economic climate, and with around eight people chasing every job vacancy in Scotland, it is more important than ever to make good career choices and to present yourself to best advantage. This is the aim of *Your Life Career Coaching*.

The strategy is to help people work out what they want to do with their lives and where their careers fit in, then plan how to get there. As a result, the person has more chance of achieving his or her full potential. Heather originally identified a need to offer professional career coaching for people returning after a career break – for example, women returning to work after having children. After testing the market, Heather recognized that there was also demand for career coaching in many more sectors: school leavers, graduates starting out on their career, people wanting to change their job or having been made redundant. Heather uses

a range of techniques, exercises and questionnaires to help people reassess their lives and careers, and enable them to move forward with more knowledge and understanding of themselves.

There is now even more pressure on school leavers applying to university. Coaching on presenting yourself in personal statements and interviews can make the difference between being offered a place at your first choice of university or not. At any stage in your career there is competition, and you have to package yourself up like a product and market yourself effectively. *Your Life Career Coaching* helps you work out what you have to offer – skills, experience and personal qualities – and communicate these persuasively through your CV, applications and interviews. The service also guides you on how to research the job market so you can effectively target your efforts.

Heather comes with a good pedigree in management consultancy, having run KPMG's career consulting practice in Scotland. In this role she advised companies on career management and redundancy strategies and helped employees take control of their careers – either to progress in their current organization or to find another job when made redundant. Her depth of experience goes back to more than six years spent in London with Coopers and Lybrand, and includes attempting to introduce modern approaches to human resource management to a Hungarian bank which previously had kept political files on employees!

Heather has a long association with Killearn, not just living her married life in the village. Her grandparents built a house here, her grandfather serving in the Home Guard during the war. Heather took a career break to have four children, immerse herself in local community activities such as *The Courier*, the All Killearn Archive Group, the Primary School Parent Council and the Barracudas Swimming Club. As if that wasn't enough, she has very ably assisted her husband, Neil, in launching his eco building business. She certainly hasn't taken a 'break', and her friends marvel at her wonderful efficiency in combining all these interests while still managing to remain calm and smiling.

There will be people reading this who recognize a need in themselves or their children for the sort of life/career assessment, guidance and self-marketing skills that *Your Life Career Coaching* can offer.

If you are interested:
phone Heather on 07795 844 261 or
email heather@yourlifecareers.co.uk



Action in Mind provides support for people who are aged 18 to 65 years of age living in rural Stirlingshire who are experiencing or recovering from mental ill health. The service assists people to improve their own mental health and well being through identifying and working towards achieving personal goals such as developing coping strategies, increasing self-confidence, reducing isolation and accessing local resources.

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1996 Jaguar XJS Coupe Celebration Model

The Jaguar XJ-S enjoyed the longest production run of any previous Jaguar model with 115,413 examples being manufactured. It first appeared in 1975 and the last example came off the production line in 1996. It was based on the floor plan of the XJ6 saloon.

The XJ-S was introduced a year after production of the E type ended but it was not intended to be a direct replacement for that model.

Jaguar's thinking was that instead of catering specifically for a diminishing sports car sector they would move up market producing a grand touring car to compete with models such as the Jensen Interceptor and Maserati.

The shape of the XJ-S was created by Malcolm Sayer an aerodynamicist who also designed the Jaguar C Type, D Type and iconic E Type. Surprisingly the XJ-S had a lower drag coefficient than the E Type which preceded it.

The distinguishing feature of this model was the flying buttresses that merged the roof line with the boot. Initially the design was met with mixed reviews as the car did not feature any of the design cues which had become the hallmark of all Jaguars such as generous amounts of chrome and wood veneer inside. These shortcomings would be corrected in later models. It was also the most expensive Jaguar to date. Initially it was only available with a V12 engine which was not particularly fuel efficient and sales were initially disappointing to such an extent that at one point the model was in danger of being axed.

Due to the foresight of Sir John Egan the newly appointed Chief Executive of Jaguar he saw the potential of the XJ-S and set about making many improvements to the model including more fuel efficient engines, the addition of 6 cylinder engines and the introduction of convertibles.

Jaguar also notched up some notable competition successes in the XJ-S with Tom Walkinshaw winning the Drivers Title for the European Touring Car Championship in a Group A version entered by TWR Racing in 1984. The same year a TWR entered XJ-S won the Spa 24 hours race. Many other successes were recorded in the US.

By 1989 XJ-S sales had exceeded those of all E types and the XJ-S enjoyed a revival. The ugly duckling was now emerging as Jaguar's swan.

There was a major facelift in 1991 and a relaunch of the model as an XJS with the adoption of frameless door windows and the deletion of front quarter lights. The



rear end treatment was revised with horizontal type tail lamps and new rear side window design along with many other detailing improvements. This gave the car a very pleasing overall effect with its softer flowing lines.

The model featured is a 1996 XJS Coupe

Celebration Model marking 60 years of Jaguar Cars and one of the very last to be manufactured. The car has a straight six fuel injected 4-litre engine (3980 cc) developing 223 bhp giving a 0-60 time of 7.4 seconds and a top speed of 137 mph. The gearbox is a ZF four speed automatic. This example is finished in Morocco Red with cream leather upholstery and sapwood veneer inlays.

The Celebration model can be identified by its special diamond turned wheels, the distinct wooden steering wheel and Jaguar embossed leather seats.

The current owner bought the car in 1998 when it was only two years old and had covered a very low mileage.

This is now a most sought after model and has a very special place in the history of Jaguar. *AMR*

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Classic Car Club

My last report ended with comments regarding the severe gale of 23 May 2011 when considerable damage was caused with power cuts and roads blocked with fallen trees. Things do not appear to have improved. In fact on 3 January 2012 we had even more disruption and damage. Alastair Ross, whose splendid Jaguar XJS appears in this edition, lost a car to a tree fall – not the Jaguar I am pleased to say!

Regardless of the weather we continued the Club programme with our Club Championship run. This was a navigational exercise organized by our very own Torquemada in the form of Mike Gastall. Fifteen cars took part at the start. Some appeared to have lost their way at the first pub at opening time. The Championship was won by Doug Ashworth (Morgan 4/4, see *The Courier Issue 17*) with Charles Brown as navigator.

Our last run of the season ended as our first – in pouring rain. A dozen cars travelled from Drymen Square via the Dukes Pass and Brig O' Turk to Callander where all enjoyed a 'Fish Supper' before returning home. The Club is most grateful to all those who help organize such outings, in this case Mike Menzies, Nigel Kelly and Dennis Pattenden.

The cars being off the road for the winter, drookit and wind blown, our Winter programme started with an entertaining and instructive talk by Claire Luti of the Dreadnought Garage in Callander. Claire spoke of the new Chinese owners of the MG brand, the size of their production, one of the largest in the world, and of their new car the MG6 designed more with millions of Chinese families in mind rather than sporty Westerners.

We have since returned to the inquisition with Jim Bisset's annual Ladies Night Quiz enjoyed by a good company at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

Torquemada (a.k.a. Mike Gastall) returned with his form of navigational torture in an armchair rally. It was great fun, and certainly exercised our brains.

It was a great sadness that we learned of the loss of one of our elder statesmen when Duncan Laing died in October 2011. Duncan was a true gentleman and friend to all. He was a real engineer and had worked with Jowett preparing their cars for the Monte Carlo rally in addition to his other work. His car, a 1929 MG M Type, was one of the oldest in the Club, and was featured in the Spring 2011 edition of *The Courier*. The Club sent condolences to Duncan's widow, Betty. He will be greatly missed.

We look forward hopefully to a better year when we travel to Ballater for our first run in May. The Rotary Classic Car Tour in aid of Charity will be run on 22 April. Many of our members will be taking part.

New members are always welcome.

Anyone wishing to join should contact:

Phillip Pain, Hon Secretary (550752).

Douglas Arthur (Chairman)



Local girl Jenny Stewart has been selected to go away with the charity Project Trust for a full 12 months in Malaysia. She will be venturing off to the tip of Borneo to a place called Sabah in August.

Project Trust is an educational charity, based on the Hebridean island of Coll, which has been sending school leavers to far flung parts of the world for over 40 years. The Trust provides volunteers with an educational experience through living and working with people in communities which are very different to those in which they have grown up, without taking work away from locals.

Jenny will be involved in educational outdoor pursuits, starting as an assistant instructor. She will progress to a qualified instructor with the ability to teach others life skills and build self confidence. However it will not only be challenging for her class, it will also be challenging for Jenny. She will have to survive on her own without seeing friends or family for the whole year, as well as cooking, cleaning and doing washing. She will also have to pick up the local language of Malay.

But the challenge doesn't just start there, it's already begun. Jenny has to raise a total of £5,000 through fund-raising events by July. To start with she has planned to do a 'School Run' from Killearn to Kelvinside – the equivalent to a half marathon, the Three Peaks Challenge (climbing the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales in under 24 hours) as well as bag packing, cake sales and much more!

While Jenny will miss all her friends and family in the village, she's looking forward to a little more sunshine and a little less rain. Jenny would be thankful for all your support. She has already set up a Virgin Money giving account:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/JennyStewartInMalaysia.

Any donations, however small, would be gratefully received.

Killearn

Killearn has a history of artistic talent, both amateur and professional, which continues to flourish. We have caught up with some of the leading artists.

Anne Mackintosh works in oils and has been commissioned to paint many well-known people. Her latest work of Glasgow's Lord Provost is still to be unveiled. In 1990, she painted Margaret Thatcher and this was a turning point in her technique – up until then she had painted from life, requiring eight to ten sittings. However, painting the Prime Minister brought with it time constraints and Anne adopted the use of a camcorder to record her subject – the movement being better than a single photo to work from. Anne tells the story of being commissioned by Margaret Thatcher to also paint the official PM's Christmas card which was to be the famous Number 10 front door. Before it could be used, Mrs Thatcher lost the leadership and Anne thought she had lost the opportunity of having her work sent all over the world. How delighted she was to then discover that John Major had still used her card that Christmas. In 1997, Anne was commissioned to paint a portrait of golfer Seve Ballesteros. One of the little heads which resulted from her sitting with Seve is available as a giclee print and Anne donates £100 from the proceeds to the Seve Ballesteros Foundation in association with Cancer Research. Following the golfing theme, Anne then went on to paint commentator Peter Alliss and, last year, Arnold Palmer for Royal Troon Golf Club. Her talent has given her the wonderful opportunity of meeting some very interesting and special people. Two of Anne's most special portraits are of Nelson Mandela and the late King Hussein of Jordan. Meeting them was a highlight in her career and she found them both to be so self-effacing and humility personified.

Coming from a scientific background, Anne took up painting after having children and, like Connie Simmers, Anne Anderson and the late Anne Gordon, all completed a non-diploma course together at Glasgow School of Art – what a class that must have been!

Website: www.annemackintoshportraits.com

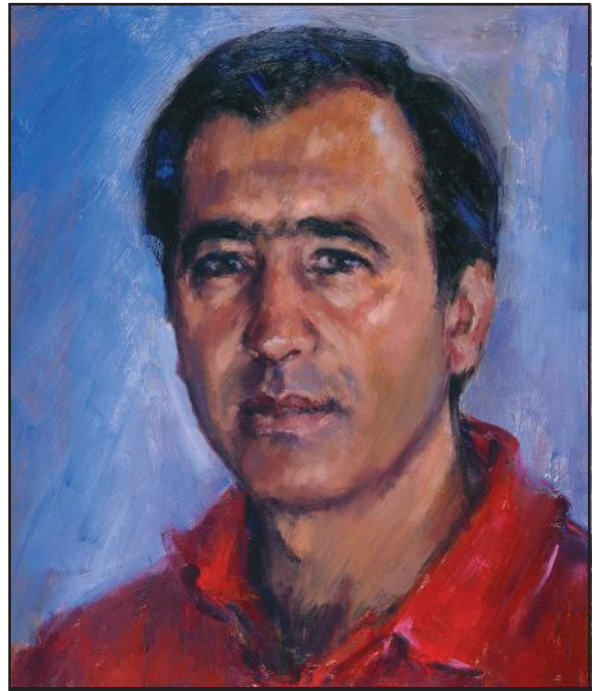
Anne Anderson is another local artist who has a string of awards and prestigious exhibitions to her name. Beautiful pastel drawings and acrylic paintings of people, mainly children are Anne's trademark. Her work sells well throughout Scotland and Bristol, with prices ranging generally from £300 to £500. Anne says it is very satisfying when a piece 'works', and to have a skill such as this and not use it would seem ungrateful. *Contact Anne: Annemayo123@aol.com*



Party Girl by Anne Anderson

Connie Simmers is an award-winning artist who is currently the Artist Vice President of the Glasgow Art Club. Connie's paintings are often of urban subjects using mixed media; she loves working with acrylics and collage to produce interesting results which are often more abstract. Prices range from £350 to £4,200. Connie is constantly working, exhibiting mainly in mixed shows in Edinburgh, London and Bath.

Website: www.simmersart.co.uk



Seve by Anne Mackintosh



Development Along River by Connie Simmers

Artists

Marion Drummond has completed a successful big show in Gullane in the past year, and is working towards the next major show there in 2013. Her work is also much appreciated south of the border with the majority of her sales in Bristol and London. Marion works in oils and has a very unusual technique, painting with her fingers and rags rather than brushes. Figures and florals are her preferred subjects, and Marion combines her love of gardening with painting by growing old David Austin roses in her garden to ensure her subjects are not too perfect and more natural. Her paintings have proved to be successful and collectable with her work ranging from £500 to £7,000. Marion has received a commission to paint a member of the House of Lords. Website: www.mariondrummond.co.uk

Many of Killearn's professional and amateur artists will remember the Killearn Art Club, which went a long way in fostering the artistic talent here and in the surrounding villages. The Club was open to all and brought top experts in the art world, like sculptor George Wyllie, out to Killearn to give talks and demonstrations, culminating in exhibitions of local work in the old Church Hall. It often takes something like an Art Club or leisure class to make us 'find the time' or receive the bit of encouragement needed to lift a paint brush for the first time since school days. It is disappointing that the Art Club ceased to exist; however, local art classes like Ewen Duncan's *art4you Scotland* based at Ballochruin is seeing great demand from local talent.



Large White Lilies by Marion Drummond

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www.spiritofstirlingwhiskyfestival.co.uk/



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Please see our website for more details and diary of events: www.ealaingallery.co.uk
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Killearn Community Council Update

The Local Plan

A drop-in session and two KCC meetings have allowed considerable discussion on the proposals for development in Killearn outlined in the Draft Local Plan.

Of the three sites proposed for new housing, part of the "Turnip Field" designated for six old peoples' bungalows has been discussed at several meetings. The plans have been approved by Stirling Council, and the development can be expected to start this spring.

Of the other two potential sites, one, extending the houses down the northern side of Station Road, has brought forth some criticism. The other, proposing a sizeable estate in the field below Blaressan (to be accessed via a mini roundabout on Station Road hill) is much more controversial. The suggested access has sparked much criticism and not a little alarm, and the prospect of a housing estate on what has hitherto been a pleasing rural approach to the village has generated a deal of opposition.

Proposals for the development of the Killearn Hospital site, suggested for a mix of business development with the possibility of some residential housing, is couched in rather less specific terms in the plan, and any development will depend on the outcome of several environmental assessments and the successful remediation of the contamination issues existing in the area.

KCC has sent a response, constructed on the comments made at meetings and sent in by residents, to the Draft Local Plan.

Open Space Strategy

The proposal by Stirling Council to formulate a strategy to conserve open areas of land held dear by residents is welcomed by KCC. Again an opportunity for open discussion was provided at a meeting, and recommendations for future action were recorded in order to ensure that the green spaces forming an essential part of the character and setting of the village are not eroded. This has also been sent to Stirling Council. Both of the above responses may be seen on the KCC website.

Killearn Park

We noted with pleasure that Killearn Park secured 210 votes (201 votes ahead of the next contender in the Stirling Council area) in the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The outcome of this challenge is still awaited.

Other Matters (Roads, Trees, Wind Farms, Litter, Planning)

All these are on-going matters as is anything else you, the public, want to raise. If you have a concern or an interest, do come to a meeting (third Wednesday in the month) and make your voice heard, or just listen in. We shall be happy to see you.

You may contact us or ask a question to be considered at the next meeting on the *contact us* page of our website. You will also find the agenda of the next meeting, minutes of past meetings and public notices on the website: www.killearncc.org.uk

Community Council Elections

KCC is pleased to welcome two new members: Hannah McLaren, a pupil at Balforn High School (Youth Member) and David Scott, who join us on the council.

Stirling Council Elections

Our three elected members of Stirling Council, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Colin O'Brien will shortly be nearing the end of their terms of office and elections for a new council will take place in May. Killearn CC would like to take this opportunity of thanking all three councillors for their excellent support of our community over the past five years, for their regular attendance at our meetings, their surgeries and for the constancy of their advice and their pursuit of a positive outcome to our concerns. To Colin O'Brien, who is retiring after many years of devoted service to Stirling Council of which he has served two terms as Provost, we send our warmest good wishes and our thanks for his friendship, his help and his close interest in the life of our community.

Brenda Pell

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Village Hall Development

The Village Hall development project continues to progress, albeit frustration levels are high at present as we have to deal with so many different interests to achieve this progress.

There are two strands developing slowly in parallel.

The first is the application by Stirling Council to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for the reorganization of the Trust Deed which has governed 'ownership' and management of the Village Hall for the last 60 years. The purpose of their application is to amend the Trust Deed to allow transfer of ownership from Stirling Council to Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC). The application was made on 6 September and it will be six months before approval may be granted.

Part of that process was a request from OSCR to update KCFC's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and I would like to thank all members who attended the EGM on 30 January and sent in proxies in favour of the special resolution to make these changes, the resolution being passed unanimously.

The second strand, which is also critically important, is to reach agreement with Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) on the signing of the Funding Contract which will secure the government funding for the project.

Although approval for this funding was given by SRDP in November 2010 it was based on the original estimates of our Quantity Surveyor, and we now need to reach agreement based on the actual tenders received. The good news is that the tenders have now been received and are very close to our estimates.

We had asked six companies to tender initially and then the lowest four to revise their tenders to a 'design and build' contract, which is the equivalent of a fixed price contract. We will be submitting these plus a range of other required documents to SRDP in early February, and if all goes to plan we hope to reach signing stage in April.

If that is achieved ownership of the hall will then be transferred to KCFC and the Funding Contract assigned to KCFC who will then be able to sign the building contract.

Not the most straightforward of projects!

Assuming we succeed with all of this, we are now aiming for a start date for construction in late May with completion in around 40 weeks which takes us to March 2013.

Thank you for your patience!

Brian Simmers

Youth Club – Advice Required

Jenn West has very kindly agreed to help with advising on fitting out the new Youth Club in the Village Hall. Technology moves on rapidly, and we want to make sure that we are providing a layout which contains the latest in play and computer equipment to attract and entertain the modern young person. Input on how best to operate the club would also be welcome.

We are looking for young/young-in-thought volunteers to join a working group to meet with us and the audio-visual and IT supplier to offer advice and up-to-date thinking! A maximum of two to three meetings over the next four months is all that is required to make sure we are on the right track.

**Please contact: Jenn West (jenn.west2@orange.net)
or Brian Simmers (brian.simmers@dsl.pipex.com).**



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2. Fill the base of the cup with some moss, leaving enough room to place the three mini primulas in a cluster towards the back of the cup, use the rest of the moss to fill the cup to the brim with a flat area at the front.

3. Next place in the pussy willow with one end bending the stem to create an arch and inserting the other end into the moss – do this with all three pieces. Complete by placing the chocolate treats on the moss at the front. Tie a little ribbon around the handle – a perfect gift for everyone. And you can keep topping up the chocolates!



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Six Tips to Fitness

Put Spring Back into Your Step

Long dark nights and cold days render most people feeling lethargic and less than inclined to embrace a healthy lifestyle. However, the body – fuelled by stodgy comfort foods and having had a love-in with the sofa – is working inefficiently and sluggishly. This leaves us feeling below par. To kick-start the system, lose the lard and to put a spring back into your step, try following the following six simple health tips:

- **Positive thinking works every time**

Use the power of the brain to influence outcomes. Neurons connect the brain to every part of the body and positive thinking influences the chemicals released. Try thinking a positive affirmation every day – ‘Every day in every way my life gets better and better.’ Pick one that applies to you personally. Watch the sun come out in your life!

- **Pull in every breath to energize**

Oxygen affects many chemical pathways in the body and is crucial to energy production and to rid the body of toxins. Take time to slowly inhale and draw the air deep into the lungs – imagine pulling it down to your toes. Try to set aside time to relax and do this for even one minute a day. Using the technique during moments of stress will make you feel calmer and in control. As an added bonus, oxygenated skin looks more healthy and youthful.

- **Fill up the tank**

Many of us are in a perpetual state of dehydration. Given that every cell in the body is composed mainly of water and that the body itself is 75% water, having low levels in the tank can cause a great many unrecognized problems. It can slow our thinking and memory, and leaves our metabolism and fat-burning capacity compromised. Try drinking a glass of water every morning to get the digestive system off to a good start and to rev-up the metabolism.

- **And so to bed**

Sleeping is the time when our body sends out the repair guys and the bodily emergency services. Tissues damaged by exercise or injury have internal first aid, and we have a chance to recover from the stresses and strains of the day. Between 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. is our natural circadian rhythm (sleep/wake cycle) and it is worth cultivating a routine around this. If you have trouble getting to sleep, eat a small piece of turkey or cheddar just before bed as they are both packed with the sleep-inducing nutrient tryptophan.

- **You are what you eat**

Every cell in the body is relying on you to consume the right foodstuffs, as your cells are only as good as the food you eat. While a packet of crisps might sate an urge at the time, it provides little in the way of quality nutrients, and is doing nothing to help your body or make you feel good. Eat breakfast every day and reduce the carbohydrate overload by eating as much protein as you can manage. This will make you feel fuller, help avoid overeating, help to build muscle and tissue, and set your hormonal system in balance for the day ahead.

- **Exercise, but not as you know it**

Listen to your body and if pain talks to you be sure to listen. No pain no gain is a sure way to a physiotherapist. Half the joggers in Scotland are limping fast! If you have any pain at all when running, this is your body’s way of saying stop, you are doing yourself no good! Resistance training or weight training is proven to produce much less stress on the body and has a much greater effect for weight loss and keeping toned and trim.

Robert Miller



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Another Blast!

It is becoming a regular feature in the *Courier* to make mention in between publications of the unusual weather conditions suffered by the village and this one is no exception.

During the month of the birth of our national Bard, we were all caught unawares of the mighty wind that swept through the community early one morning. Many trees that had survived the last high winds fell victim to this almighty blast. Killearn was all but marooned at one point. Lots of garden furniture was damaged, fences were demolished, houses were struck and even cars were written off having been smashed by falling trees.

Some of the trees were huge and thought to be immune to such situations.

The photograph shows just how wrong you can be. *TID*



Looking on the Bright Side

Since trees have figured twice or thrice in this column in the past, it seems repetitive to mention them again, but how does one avoid them? Thanks to the winter gales, trees we have known and loved for decades are no longer with us. Sentinels of Station Road gardens came down like skittles. Gardens all over the village have been the recipients of unwelcome invaders as trees toppled onto huts and decking. The conifer at the top corner of Old Endrick Road, a massive specimen whose top was barely visible from the ground, smacked its way across the lane and into the trees on the other side. Hardly anyone remembers when that tree wasn't there. It wasn't quite big enough to drive a car through, but it looked robust enough to withstand most things. Which goes to show that sodden soil and high winds are a powerful combination.

Tales abounded of people trying to get to work and being thwarted at every turn. At one point, there was no way out of the village environs – the stuff of dramatic fiction, or even a scary movie. Motorists had to turn back repeatedly, and there were accounts of double deckers having to reverse away from arboreal hazards for hundreds of yards. A strange silence fell upon the village, except for the sound of merry chainsaws, as heroes in crash hats sought to restore normality. And weren't they fast? Those are the guys one wants to have onside in an emergency.

While heaping nothing but praise on the wielders of the chainsaws, one did have hopes of them setting about some of our more invasive evergreens while they were at it, respecting always the rigours of the law. The lane from Old Endrick towards the park is becoming ludicrously overgrown. At least one of the bollards, put there to discourage cars from driving up to the swing park, has vanished into the undergrowth as these massive weeds take over the lane.

And the part where couples could stride round the corner side by side is now fit only for a very insecure single file. Even the stones are vanishing under a combination of triffids and mud. One is tempted to ask whose trees they are, and whose responsibility it is to keep them in check. Whoever it is could take lessons from Jim's laurels, further up on the other side, a little tall on a sunny day, perhaps, but smart as paint.

There is, of course, an upside to trees coming down all over the village. Apart from the spirit of neighbourliness and mutual assistance that abounded, there are other benefits. Greenhouses may have collapsed, fences flown, tiles cracked, but hasn't the light improved? Views that had become a distant memory were suddenly revealed, as people remembered why they bought their house in the first place. And should one be the fortunate possessor of a wood-burning stove, there is enough material lying around to keep one's cockles warm for years. And one doesn't have to go down the glen looking for stray branches. Lots of people are looking for recipients for their spare timber. Almost everyone will have seen the invitation to help oneself to the bits of tree on the main road at the top of Drumbeg Loan. Don't you just love village life?

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Killearn Health Centre News

Staff update

As part of her structured training schedule Dr Anna Pickering left us at the end of January to continue training in hospitals and hospices. We look forward to Dr Pickering rejoining us in August 2013 to complete her final year of training.

Travel vaccinations

As the holiday season is just around the corner please remember to plan ahead if you will require any travel vaccinations. We offer a full range of vaccinations. Please contact the surgery on 550339 if you require any information regarding this service.

Online prescription ordering

Don't forget you can order your prescriptions 24/7 at:
www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

Staff training

Please note we will be closed for staff training from 12.30 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, 22 March, Thursday, 7 May and Tuesday, 19 June.

If you require medical assistance:

please contact NHS 24 on 0845 4242424.

In Case of Emergency

The Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Stirling Community Hospital (*formerly* Stirling Royal Infirmary) has now moved to a new location on the ground floor of the former maternity unit.

The re-vamped facility remains open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week and is staffed by emergency nurse practitioners who can prescribe medication and provide treatment for a wide range of minor injuries. These include minor burns and scalds, infected wounds, sprains, cuts and grazes. Staff can also examine and treat minor injuries to the eye, ear, head and neck areas and arrange X-rays for suspected broken bones.

Staff can treat and assess adults and children over the age of one year (children under the age of one with a minor injury should be taken direct to the Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert). There is no need to make an appointment and patients who attend are seen and treated quickly.

We are keen to encourage local people to make use of this important health facility which will help us reduce pressure on the busy Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

Details of the MIU and the services it provides can be found on the NHS Forth Valley website – www.nhsforthvalley.com

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Strathendrick Singers



The Strathendrick Singers' coffee morning was a huge success and raised around £1,000. Thanks to all who contributed and supported us.

The next event, on Sunday, 18 March at 7 p.m., is our Spring Concert in Killearn Kirk. The programme includes the *Little Organ Mass* by Haydn and *Lux Aeterna* by Lauridsen. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children, and are available from choir members or at the door. Alternatively, phone Pat (550074, email: drashworth@aol.com) or via the website: www.strathendricksingers.org.uk.

The new Register of Electors has been published and is available to view in local libraries and some council offices.

Brian Byrne, Electoral Registration Officer reported an increase in electors responding to the enquiry form by email. Prompt response to an email reduced the number of forms posted and saved over £5,000. Brian encourages anyone with an email address to contact him to allow the annual enquiry to be emailed in future years. Most electors are supportive of this option as they find it more convenient and quicker. An added benefit is that the ERO can contact electors when they move address or make enquiries if notified of any changes.

With local elections taking place on 3 May 2012, Brian is offering local community groups the opportunity of a visit from his staff to check registration details and to help fill in forms or to vote by post. They would also be able to explain the local council voting system.

Anyone wanting to arrange a meeting or to check if they are registered to vote should contact Russell Taylor on 01786 892207 or ero@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk

More information on www.saa.gov.uk/central



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The Hoolie Returns: 10 – 16 June 2012



Strathendrick Pipe Band



Gala King & Queen 2010 with Cllr Graham Lambie

Following the tremendous success of the 2010 event, June will see the arrival of the 2012 Killearn Hoolie! As before, the aim is to bring as many local villagers and visitors together as possible in a celebration of community spirit with activities, entertainment, fun and a few surprises along the way!

The Killearn Hoolie 2012 will begin on Sunday, 10 June, starting with the 10k and Fun Run. Throughout the week there will be a number of events such as the Street Football, Treasure Hunt, Art Competition (3–18 years), Teddy Bears Picnic, Anyone For Tennis; culminating in the Gala Day and Dance on Saturday, 16 June.

The Hoolie 10k & Fun Run Sunday, 10 June 2012 sponsored by *Heron House*

Kick start your Hoolie Week with a walk, jog or run.

Building on the popularity of the first Killearn 10k, this event is designed to provide something for everyone from Killearn and beyond. For walkers and joggers there is the 5k Fun Run, and there is a 10k to challenge the more experienced and competitive runner!

Participants are encouraged to sign-up early online to ensure your place on the starting line – and to secure a Fun Run t-shirt! Final registration will take place at the Black Bull where, following a massed warm up, entrants will be piped out to the starting line by the War Memorial. Keeping to the same beautiful route as 2010, the trail will head out through the village and onto the historic pipe track, following along the foothills of Dumgoyne, and returning via Ibert Road. The finish line will be at the Park where refreshments will be available to welcome the participants home.

The inaugural Wee Hoolie (pre 5s) will open the Junior Series at 10 a.m. followed by age category running races around the Park for children aged 12 and under.

Enter online at www.killearnhoolie.com or contact Lorna Sinclair: 07798 875284 for more information.

Participate without running? Yes, please, by volunteering to help on the day. Contact Mary Fraser: 07718 931789.



Junior Fun Run 2010

Sponsorship & Help

All great events need support to make them happen – so why not be part of Killearn's great community venture?

With an attractive range of sponsorship packages on offer, you or your company can be associated with an event of your choice. For further information, please contact Tim Brown on 07918 941386.

Do you run or are you involved with an organization in the village? Maybe your group would like to be part of 'The Hoolie' by holding an event during the week?

Could you offer your services in kind? Whether stewarding on the Fun Run, helping on a stall or donating a bottle or a prize for the Grand Raffle, everyone can help in their own way. For further information on how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Brown (550681) or Joanna Donaldson (550536).

Please remember to keep checking the website for further updates and information at www.killearnhoolie.com

arn Hoolie

arnhoolie.com



The Hoolie Gala Day Saturday, 16 June 2012



Glengoyne Tasting 2010

A fabulous programme of events has been lined up for the day on The Glebe. Proceedings will kick off with a procession along Main Street led by Strathendrick Pipe Band, local Classic Cars and the Gala King and Queen.

At 12 noon the Gala will officially open and the fun will begin...

- Hoolie King & Queen 2012
 - Strathendrick Pipe Band
 - Fancy Dress Parade and Competition
 - Strathendrick Classic Car Club
 - The Hoolie Market
 - Edenmill Burgers
 - Smokies from Arbroath
 - The Quack Commandos
 - A Climbing Wall for all ages!
 - Tug of War
 - Get Reel
 - Dancers
 - Jubilee Afternoon Tea
 - Get Your Hands on Local History with David Smith from the Smith Art Gallery & Museum
- And many more family favourites.



Fancy Dress Parade 2010

The Hoolie... The Final Fling Saturday, 16 June 7.30 p.m. – 12.30 a.m.

A glorious gathering of all the 'Casual Kilted Gents and Bonnie Lassies' – the ultimate village party for adults of all ages on the Glebe – the evening will bring a fantastic end to the Hoolie week as revellers enjoy great company, fabulous contemporary music – with dancing into the wee small hours – bar and a supper.



Skerryvore



Jill Jackson

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The Hoolie... The Final Fling 2012

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Email.....

Return form to: Nick Hawkins, 5 Elm Road, Killearn, G63 9RY

Tickets allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Sorry, over 18s only.

BOOKING OPENS 19 MARCH

Duntreath Garden Show

Duntreath Castle Garden has traditionally opened annually to the public in June. However this year it is planned to be a major new Charity Garden Event in Scotland. The Garden Show will run over the weekend of 15–17 June. The



organizers hope to attract around 8,000 visitors, and raise up to £50,000 for local charities, including Erskine Hospital, Scotland's Gardens, Canine Partners, Glasgow Rotary Club Charities, Artlink Central and other local charities.

As well as the gardens being open, there will be over 100 quality trade stands, gardening talks twice daily from Steve Brookes, BBC gardening presenter and author, entitled 'The Greatest Garden Tips in the World', cookery demonstrations and the Scottish Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will be there to create floral art displays. Julia Donaldson, creator of *The Gruffalo* will be judging the Olympic Garden Youth Competition when you bring your entry to Duntreath Castle. Primary and nursery schools and other children's organizations are invited to enter a 'Grow an Olympic Dream Garden' container. A silent auction will be run by the Rotary Club of Glasgow who will be celebrating their centenary year. There will also be a Gala Preview Evening on Friday night for approximately 600–700 guests with entertainment and music by the Marching Band of the Royal Marines.

Further information on the Garden Show is available on the website: www.duntreathgardenshow.co.uk or call 07802 282193

Honours for Killearn academics



Pat Monaghan, Professor of Animal Ecology, and Neil Metcalfe, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, both working in the University of Glasgow's Institute for Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, have recently been elected to one of Europe's foremost research bodies, the Academia Europaea (Academy of Europe).

Invitation to the Academy of Europe is a rigorous peer-reviewed process with all candidates recognized as foremost academics in their field, and includes 38 Nobel Laureates. The Academy's aims include the encouragement of interdisciplinary and international research, and it advises national governments and international agencies in scientific matters.

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News from Balfron High

For the last year and a half, Balfron High School has been lucky to be part of the Comenius project. The Comenius project aims to develop knowledge of the diversity of European cultures and languages, and the value of this diversity. The project also aims to encourage active European citizenship. The Comenius group have been holding fundraisers, such as a coffee morning in Killearn to bring local enterprises and businesses together. These fundraisers are to enable visits to other EU countries to discuss this year's theme of trade. Recently the group has visited Poland to give a presentation on ethical trade in Scotland. More trips are currently being planned for the future.



Comenius group trip to Poland 2012

This year the school put on a production of 'Twelfth Night'. Leading the cast was Julie Christie as Viola and other cast members included Fionnuala Mendham, Anthony Holroyd, Sean Monaghan and Rebecca Mann. The play featured dancing from various organised clubs at Balfron High as well as original music composed by pupils. The play was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, with special thanks to Mrs Paterson-Reid for all her support.

Balfron's Swing Dance group was set up by Mrs Aldous from the English department for seniors as a fun place to relax and to get away from the stress of exams. The group has now made quite a number of very successful appearances in school events including 'Beat It', 'Twelfth Night', 'The Christmas Dance' and 'The Big Balfron Coffee Morning' where a special Christmas routine was performed. Congratulations to the Swing Group who are now going on to represent Balfron High in the Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition.

Lora Bedford and Hannah McLaren

Ready for Action

The Killearn Village Hall Media Project is an oral history project centred on life in our village. Bill Macleod is working with pupils from Killearn Primary School, Jaqui McAlpine is working with students from Ballikinrain School and John Matthews will lead a team documenting the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

The team hit the January sales looking for bargains and were very successful.



The village now owns a MacBook Pro – with numerous software packages like Pages

for designing newsletters, Keynotes for presentations, Final Cut Pro X for video editing and I Can Animate for animation – plus a Zoom H2N audio recorder and a Panasonic HD camcorder. Killearn Primary and Ballikinrain Schools will be the first to use this amazing creative technology.



If your village group would like to borrow or learn how to use these resources, or you would like to know more about the Media Project, please get in touch with :

Jacqueline McAlpine (551659) or email jaquimcalpine@hotmail.com

MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY 18TH MARCH



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Killearn Primary School News

Over the Christmas period Killearn Primary School has been very busy!

We had really great fun Christmas parties and put on a well attended Christmas concert at which P3-7 sung their hearts out (*see picture below*) and P1 and 2 performed the Nativity play 'Prickly Hay'. We raised a brilliant total of around £95 which went to Dyslexia Scotland and Strathcarron Hospice.



Some of P6 and P5 have made a new welcome sign for the school using tiles and pottery as part of an Artlink project (*see picture above*). It is a colourful bright sign. They have been writing their names on pieces of recycled paper and sticking them on the sign. The children involved have really enjoyed taking part in this great project and we are all very grateful to the Artlink team for giving us this wonderful



week was very positive, and we look forward to receiving their full report.

KPS News written by Rachael Methven, Fiona Millar, Jemma Whyte and Lewis Forbes



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Then do something about it.

The Scout Association works with young people (male and female) from the ages of 6 to 25 years and can make use of any free time or skills you may have. Come on – stay young and have fun by joining the fastest growing co-educational movement for young people in the world.

You know it makes sense

The Scouting movement in Killearn desperately needs your help. Killearn's Scout section has already closed due to a lack of adult volunteers; the Cub and Beaver sections may be destined for a similar fate if adult volunteers do not come forward. The children of the village benefit greatly from their membership of these organizations; please don't let the proud history of Scouting in Killearn become just that...

For further information about Scouting in Killearn

Call: Suzanne (551686)

e-mail: hendrysuz@aol.com

Killearn Kids Go Racing

From Killearn Parish Church magnificent views spread all the way down to Loch Lomond to the hills beyond. Within that scene some of Killearn's energetic kids learn how to race dinghies at Loch Lomond Sailing Club. This exciting sport opens up a whole new opportunity to develop a skill that makes best use of our climate, with excellent breeze surrounded by a stunning backdrop.

The Sailing Club focuses on Junior and Senior dinghy racing at weekends and encourages kids between 7 and 12 years of age onto the water. Their parents are also involved in training by learning how to help with coaching, driving safety boats, rigging and tuning dinghies, and providing the entire on-shore backup needed to run things smoothly – as well as being a shoulder to cry on, and always smiling proudly when they see their kids coping with some extremely challenging conditions for the first time.

The first objective on the water is to identify wind direction and its effect on a sail, then to use that energy to power the boat, very much a step-by-step process. A fast-track route to learning these basics is provided by nearby Bardowie Sailing Club which runs Monday–Friday RYA courses throughout the summer, combining excellent 'childcare' for a very reasonable cost with a RYA certificate at the end of the week.

With a certificate and a bit of practice, the door to the world of Optimist and Topper racing is wide open.



Killearn Kids at Loch Lomond

The Optimist is the biggest youth racing class in the world, with over 160,000 sailed by kids up to 15 years old, in over 120 countries. The Topper Class is one of the most successful and fastest growing of the UK classes. Both classes are recognized by the International Sailing Federation and provide a pathway to the larger Laser dinghy and two-handed 420 or 29er.

The Scottish racing circuit incorporates various open events at Loch Lomond and other clubs at Helensburgh, Largs, Dalgety Bay, North Berwick, Loch Tummel and Loch Venachar throughout the summer months.

The RYA is always present and the Scottish coaches are keen to spot and encourage as many kids as they can – much of the coaching is sponsored, and it isn't long before a place in the national squads becomes a target. Being in one of the squads means more focused race training throughout the year, including winter.

RYA Scotland is fortunate to have some of the best Optimist and Topper coaches in the world in Robbie Burns, Joanne McDonald and Laurie McDonald. Callum McDonald, Laurie's husband, coaches Luke Patience from Rhu who is Scotland's

first Olympian and going for gold in 2012.

Killearn now has four Optimist West Squad sailors – Lewis and Scott Forbes, Patrick Finn and Harris Cartwright (top Scot in the Regatta Fleet) plus three in the Scottish Optimist Sailing Squad: Isla Harper (Silver Main Fleet, ranking 105), Rory Harper (Gold Main Fleet, ranking 87) and Christopher Crocket (top Scot Silver Main Fleet, ranking 95). Andrew Crocket is in the 2011 Scottish 420

Sailing Squad.

Squad sailors regularly travel up and down the country to national competitions. It's at this stage that the commitment steps up a gear, as



Meeting Ben Ainslie at Yarmouth

the young sailor is now far more knowledgeable and skilled at racing, having frequently competed in breeze up to 35 knots, spending up to nine hours a day in seas that would send a shiver down your spine.

In 2012, Killearn Kids will go racing again. Training has already started. This year coveted blue West and Scottish Squad jackets might be replaced with the red of the GBR squads. On-the-water skills will become sharper and sail-setting more efficient. They will employ better race strategy, and be wiser about racing rules. Other kids will see this and one day, perhaps, they will be spending time waxing their dinghies, searching for that edge to make them a little bit faster. After all what else can you do on a wet and wild day?

Jamie Crocket

sailingcaptain@lochlomondsc.org



The Kids at the RYA Zone Championships 2011

The Incomers by *Moira McPartlin*

An 'incomer' is defined by the website www.urbandictionary.com as anyone who moves into a new community; an economic migrant, refugee or asylum seeker.

In Scotland the word 'incomer' is a pejorative word, and yet people have been migrating for work since before the industrial revolution, so why the negativity? It seems to persist in closed, rural communities where generations have worked and the graveyards have row upon row of tombstones carrying the same surname. But the feeling of being an incomer is not restricted to alienation in rural areas or even physical places.

Who defines incomers and when does one cease to be one? Can someone be an incomer all their lives? Is incomer a definition in terms of time or a state of mind? Are there some rural villages where it doesn't matter if you are an incomer?

I moved to Killearn from Glasgow in 2005. Before Glasgow I lived in Fife, and it was in Fife that I came to be thought of as an incomer.

My family moved to a small mining village in Fife when I was five years old. I was born in the Scottish Borders, but work took us to Nottinghamshire. When I returned to Scotland I had an English accent. We lived in a private house in a predominantly local authority housing area, and I was taken to school in my dad's car, one of the few cars in the area. During the first year there I was top of the class in every subject and even had the cheek to win the sports prize – I was an alien as far as the other children were concerned. I was called a snob, a swat, posh.



Despite this I was immune to most of the prejudice against me, but I can remember one incident when an adult verbally attacked me in the baker's shop while I was there with a classmate.

This incident stayed with me and sparked the idea for my novel *The Incomers*. 'Write what you know' all the writing guides tell you, so I began to write the story of a little English girl who comes to live in a Fife mining village in 1966. The novel soon became autobiographical and painful to write. I was saved by Ellie Amadi, a young West African woman who walked onto my page. 'Tell my story,' her character demanded. 'I am a real incomer.' Her story



deals with racial prejudice, colonial oppression and a mother's love, but the other characters in the novel tackle bigotry, superstition, class, bullying and depression.

I knew nothing about Africa so had to stop writing and start researching. I read vast amounts of African literature, non fiction, glossy coffee table picture books, travel guides – anything I could lay my hands on. I started writing again, but before I could write the ending, I visited Africa to do Ellie's story justice. I went to The Gambia for only a week, but it was enough to convince myself that I had the right story.

When I began the story I tried to make comparisons between West Africa and Fife but succeeded in

drawing deep parallels between the cultures. I believe those connections are what make this book special.

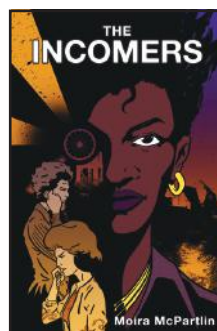
When Ellie's final chapter was written I discovered that incomers are incomers when ignorance is present. With familiarity and patience, acceptance is possible anywhere.

When I moved to Killearn, a 'local' told me I might find it difficult to get to know people, not being a member of the church or having children at the local school. This is not the case. I joined a Pilates class, I became an active member in Get Reel and I am now a happy member of Killearn Growers. I know more people in Killearn than I did in Glasgow. Killearn has proved to be one of those villages where it doesn't matter if you are an incomer or not.



But if I am honest, even though I may still be an incomer in Fife, it is my spiritual home.

GS



The *Incomers* by Moira McPartlin, is published by Fledgling Press and available from all good booksellers from April 2012.

Moira presented her book at the *Aye Write Book Festival* in the Mitchell Library.

Do you have a book group? Moira would be happy to visit any book groups in the area to discuss the issues raised in *The Incomers*.

A Bandit from the Wellgreen?



Killearn's very own Stuart Kidd is making his mark in the music industry in a big way having been with The BMX Bandits for several years, playing both guitar and drums,

and touring South Korea, Japan, America, Spain and Denmark as well as appearing a numerous festivals in the UK and performing live on lots of radio sessions. He also played on their albums *My Chain* and *Bee Stings*.

He currently plays drums for the band 'Jonny' which is a project led by Teenage Fanclub's Norman Blake and Dave McGowan along with Gorky Zygotie Mynce's front man, Euros Childs. They recorded their first album, and the review saw Stuart being featured in *MOJO* magazine. They went on to tour the UK last year, appearing at both the Glastonbury Festival and Truck Festival along the way.

Stuart also plays drums for Belle and Sebastian guitarist Stevie Jackson, who has just released a solo album. They toured the UK and Europe in November last year, and are preparing to record another album. He also plays as a session musician, live and in the studio for people such as Echo and the Bunnymen, Evie Sands, St. Deluxe, The Primary Five, Carol Laula and many others.

As if all this was not enough, he plays in a band called The Wellgreen with his friend Marco Rea. The name came about because he and Marco had met by accident one night some 12 years ago in the Wellgreen and spent ages sharing their love and knowledge of music before eventually coming together; was this, as Bob Dylan would say 'A Simple Twist of Fate'? Over the last three years, they have recorded their debut album and released it digitally and on CD. Copies have been sold all over Europe and in countries such as Brazil, the U.S. and Japan. They have played in hundreds of gigs including Doune the Rabbit Hole Festival and the Tartan Heart Festival.

Stuart started life at Letterburn until he was two years old. The family moved to the village where he attended Killearn Primary School and latterly Balforn High School. There he discovered the Beatles thanks to his history teacher, Owen Kelly. He reckons it was also thanks to him and the Beatles that he failed Higher History, deciding instead that he wanted to be a Beatle.

He was drawn to the drums because his big brother was lead drummer in the Balforn High School Pipe Band. But two drummers in the house was not on, so he picked up a guitar, teaching himself how to play Beatles songs.

His break into music came in 2002 when he was attending the Reid Kerr College in Paisley studying for an HND in Music Performance and Promotion. One of his lecturers, Francis Macdonald, then a drummer for Teenage Fanclub and The BMX Bandits, asked him to come to Spain with him as the drummer for a gig at the Benicassim Festival. This led to an album recorded under the name of 'Nice Man and the Bad Boys' entitled *The Art of Hanging Out* which led

to tours in Spain and Germany. A track from the album appeared on a Korean mobile phone advert and another featured in the movie *Wedding Daze*. The rest, as they say, is history.

Some links to Wellgreen:

<http://thewellgreen.bandcamp.com>

www.isthismusic.com/the-wellgreen.

and to Stuart himself: <http://kidd.bandcamp.com/>



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Central Scotland Police

Police Report

We often read in the more conservative press how Britain has become a 'broken society' in the early 21st century. No one cares about his or her neighbour, and if we do see something which is perhaps distasteful or criminal then it is maybe best to look the other way and not get involved. The rioting and looting which occurred in England during the summer would probably go a long way to reinforcing that view.

Whilst the press are happy to print endless pages of copy regarding these depressing matters it is often the case that public-spirited actions go unrecognized. Good news isn't as sensational as bad news. That doesn't mean it should pass without a mention.

Over the course of the past few months, there have been several instances of public-spirited actions by members of the Killearn community and others from villages in west Stirlingshire. Actions which will reinforce the view that, at least in this area of Scotland, people do care and are not scared to get involved or feel that it is someone else's responsibility.

During one afternoon in mid November, Killearn was visited by a group of individuals intent on committing a particularly nasty type of theft, pretending to be legitimate tradesmen and stealing from elderly and vulnerable members of the community. Three houses in the village were targeted and those responsible were successful in stealing a handbag



from one. As is normally the case, persons who commit this type of crime do not wait to be caught and quickly left the village.

The response of the local community to these incidents was commendable. Without realizing the implications of what was happening, several residents telephoned the police expressing concerns about suspicious persons driving around the streets. It was apparent that many people in Allan Road were particularly vigilant and intervened in one case before anything was stolen. As a result of these residents reporting their concerns, those responsible for committing these crimes were identified and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Similarly, on the morning of 3 January, central Scotland bore the brunt of some extremely stormy weather. As a result, the A81 and A875 between Killearn and Milngavie were blocked in eight separate places. Without any hesitation several members of this community simply got out and set about reopening the roads. Those who owned chainsaws clearly enjoyed cutting trees up, whilst those who didn't set about carrying logs onto the road verges. One particularly industrious milk-lorry driver even managed to reopen one lane of the A81 just south of the distillery using a handsaw.

Communities like Killearn thrive because many who live around the village are happy to get involved and care. To those whom I have mentioned above (in both incidents), you know who you are. You are to be congratulated on your efforts.

On a separate issue, can I ask that as work commences around the village hall in Balfroon Road in early April consideration is given to where cars are parked? Please do not park on pavements or double park at the top of Station Road or on Balfroon Road. During January there was one 'near miss' incident where a vehicle collided with a parked car on Balfroon Road as a lady lifted a child from the parked car in order to go into the nursery. If we can keep this area as clear as possible, we will prevent accidents.

*David McNally,
Balfroon Community Policing*



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Killearn Football Club



The Football Club brought Season 2011 to a close in mid November with a presentation evening in The Old Mill Inn. After a first-class meal provided by Ian and his staff, Club Chairman, Donald Beaton, gave a report on the past season and welcomed family members of the late John MacColl, who had given many years service to Killearn F.C. as a player, committee member and a supporter. The family have donated a shield to the Club in memory of Jock, the trophy to be presented annually to the most promising Young Player of the Year, the first winner being Craig Norval.

The other winners for the season were Alan More – Dr.

Barclay Shield – for the Club’s ‘Top Goal-Scorer’, Fraser Cameron and Craig Norval shared the Riverways Shield for ‘Players’ Player of the Year’, and Club Captain James Beaton was awarded the James Gladstone Cup for Club ‘Player of the Year’. The Chairman thanked Kathleen MacColl and President Hugh McArthur for presenting the trophies.

Training for the new season will be kicking off shortly and new faces will be most welcome. The Committee will be pushing on with their efforts to acquire changing facilities at the Park: you never know – Season 2012 might bring lots of silverware – and changing rooms as well!

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Come on down we looking forward to welcoming you.

Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2011/12 season for Strathendrick Curling Club has been very routine. There have been no major weather disruptions of fixtures and no prospect of outside curling at Drumore Pond. However there is plenty of water should Jack Frost oblige!

First, turning to routine matters. The main club Autumn League was won by Sheila Sturrock's team of Walter McGowan, John Bowie and Rita Harris by one point from Fiona Glass's team of Archie Banks, Stan Moore and Richard Kingslake. It is four years since the league was won by a lady skip!

The Annual Ladies v Gents competition was also won by the Ladies (including Stephanie (Stan) Moore to make up the numbers) by 13 ends to 11.

The Ladies Autumn League for the Peat Trophy was won by Betty Meikle's team of Gill Smith and Elspeth Murdoch with reserves filling in for Sheilagh Cooper, who found the attractions of Kathmandu greater than those of Stirling on Thursday mornings (can't think why!). The Christmas Bonsel was won by Rita Barth's team of Gill Smith, Rita Hallam and Pat Montgomery, and the lunch which followed at the Riverside was very much enjoyed.

The Ladies also had a Pairs Bonsel which was won by Rita Barth and Norma Thornton with five ends against Pat Rodger and Rita Mearns with four ends.

In the Forth and Endrick Province leagues, Strathendrick are struggling in the Robert Paterson Shield, but are second in the Forest Hills League. Both are being played at The Peak this year.



In the Province Medal Bonsel, Strathendrick were the overall winners, despite being tied on 11 ends with Fintry, West Stirling Ladies and Balfron, by virtue of being 17 shots up. This was three more shots up than Fintry, who were second.

In October, the club had four teams playing at Murrayfield in the Triennial Bonsel for

the Balyarrow Trophy. This is against the other clubs which share our foundation date of 1846, namely, Bridge of Weir, Falkland, Haddington and St Andrews. Unfortunately, we are still unable to report a win in this competition, although a good time was had by all. Maybe 2014...?

On the social front, we had our usual successful Meander on 2 January. A group of curlers walking round the village and calling in for food and drink could not be other than a success!

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

Fiona Glass (550646) or George Harris (550456)
or our website www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

Anyone for Tennis!

Now that spring is upon us, it is time for tennis players of all ages and abilities to swing into action. For those who have always fancied trying tennis, now is as good a time as any to venture onto the courts.

For beginners and players who are keen to hone their skills, coaching is available from tennis coach Chris Jewell (*pictured right*). The next Junior coaching block will begin after the Easter break. Weekly coaching will take place on the following days:

- Juniors coaching: Fridays
- Gents' Night & coaching - Thursday nights from 7 p.m. onwards.
- Under 12 performance squads: Wednesdays, 4.45 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.
- Under 16 performance squads: Thursdays, 5.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Summer camps for Juniors are being planned for the third week of the summer holidays (Monday, 9 July).

Ladies and Gents social tennis nights will be starting soon. For Juniors members Box Leagues are being organized, and more information about this will be posted on the club notice board. Open Days, family tournaments with barbeques will be run throughout the season. The Committee is also hoping to hold a Hoolie event for the village at the Tennis Club.

After a good, competitive season last year, 2012 is hoped to be even better for the teams. The latest news for the Ladies and Gents teams playing



in the Central District leagues is that four sets will now be played in all divisions rather than the previous six. As well as entering Ladies and Gents teams in the Central Division Summer leagues, the club enters Under 14, Under 12 and Under 9 mini tennis teams. There are also Autumn and Winter league teams competing later in the season.

Hopefully, there is something to suit everyone who is interested in joining the Club. Come along and have a 'smashing' time.

S. Bell

Rugby Round Up

Strathendrick Rugby Club is enjoying a successful season throughout its ranks and is looking forward to its traditional end of season junkets!

The Minis have trained or played games throughout the year – bolstered by new recruits at P3 level resulting from Taster Sessions

run by Development Officers in local Primary Schools. The highlight of the season approaches with the momentous annual Strathendrick Minis Charity Festival on Sunday, 29 April, at Fintry. Hundreds of young players will display their talents – and raise money for local hospices at the same time. Supporters and spectators are most welcome.

A new collaboration between the Club and Balfron High School to re-establish regular Midi rugby on a regular basis has had a great inaugural season. Balfron has players (and potential players), but not enough fixtures; the Club has facilities, but not enough bodies; so the two have joined forces. Chris Jewell, a probationary teacher at Balfron, and David Brown, Strathendrick's Development Coach, have trained a talented and enthusiastic squad of 25 players. John Brown and Nick Hawkins of SRFC, have organized and managed fixtures. After an initial loss to McLaren, the team have since drawn with Glasgow High School B team and then beaten Kelvinside B team, Glasgow East and Crieff, with return games still to come. The School and Club are delighted with the progress and hope to expand the programme next season.

In the senior ranks, the Strathendrick 1st XV has once again spent most of the season sitting at the top of RBS Regional League West Division 2, having won all but two of their games. Coach Dave Barrett has given the squad the



confidence to take on all opposition and fancy their chances! The away win against league favourites Helensburgh was a particular highlight, but the Fintry team lost narrowly to them in the Regional Bowl – so there will be no return trip to Murrayfield this year.

The 2nd XV has enjoyed a really good season with some characterful performances; some wins and some losses! Certainly the team should comfortably avoid the threat of relegation this year.

And so the Club looks forward to its annual jubilee on Saturday, 28 April: the AGM at lunchtime; President's XV vs the Captain's XV in the afternoon at Fintry – supporters are most welcome – and the Annual Dinner in the evening.

For further information on the Club, its teams and events please visit:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc

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David N. Clark OBE 1938 – 2011



David and his wife, Jean, the Clarks of Findlay Clark, came to Killearn in 1990, moving in with their daughter, Robin, and sons, Alexander and Duncan. In his time here David took a great interest in the village, supporting its organizations, encouraging projects, injecting his enthusiasm into new ventures and proving an inspiration to those who knew him.

Born and educated in England, David took a Short Service Commission with the Grenadier Guards, then spent a little time in his family firm of stockjobbers in the City of London before branching

out into a career in horticulture. Moving to Glasgow, he worked for a time with Malcolm Campbell where he developed the flower and plant division. In 1970 he and Jean founded their own successful business. His work gave him a wide knowledge of plants and a huge experience of marketing, and he was greatly respected throughout the Garden Centre trade. His role at the head of numerous garden centre and horticultural bodies, including President of the International Garden Centre Association, was influential, and in 2000 he was awarded the OBE for services to horticulture.

David was an active and generous supporter of numerous varied charities, in particular the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scottish Opera and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, as well as the Trades House of Glasgow, the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow and East Park Home, for all of which he was a director. He was the Honorary President of the Tulloch Trust and the founder of the Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust.

The sale of a part of the Findlay Clark business to Dobbies allowed David to enjoy a partial retirement which gave him and Jean the opportunity to travel extensively and for him to indulge his passion for fishing, both locally and

regularly in Norway and Russia.

He was also able to devote time to village matters. He became a director of Killearn Community Futures Company where his business experience was greatly valued and his enthusiasm and drive were instrumental in raising the company's status to a more professional level. He was an avid enthusiast for projects that would benefit the village and had an acute skill in suggesting the right people to take on new challenges. A champion of the Football Club and the plans for new changing rooms as well as an early member of the Village Hall Renovation team, David's support proved a much valued encouragement to those implementing the changes. It was a cause of sorrow to David and his family, as well as to his colleagues, that his illness did not give him time to see the outcome of these projects.

Constancy and persistence characterized all that David did – in his working life, his involvement in charitable causes and in his personal interests – but it was his genial nature and sense of fun, his colourful and engaging character that so endeared him to all who had contact with him that made him an unforgettable personality. His death is a huge loss both to his devoted family and also to the village.

John McGowan 1927 – 2011

John was born into one of the longest established families in Killearn and spent his entire life in the village. His family, originally meal millers from Aberdeenshire, had come in years past to Killearn, where the Mill House became the family home. John was educated at Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School. One of his wartime memories was of escaping classes to work on the school vegetable patch.

On leaving school he began work in an accountant's office in Glasgow but was soon required in the family timber and sawmilling business which he joined in 1942, rising through the firm until he became managing director. When the business was sold in 1993 John continued to provide a service from the Mill House for his customers until the latter years of his life.



He met Olive at local dances and they married in 1956. The marriage was one of enduring closeness and was blessed by the birth of a son, Iain.

John played a full and active role in a wide range of village activities. In the post war years he started up a Youth Club with Jim Fallas and, again with Jim, was a founder member of the Boys' Brigade in which he served as 1st Lieutenant. He was a member of

the Kirk, of the Tennis Club and the Union Club and was a leading light of the Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society, in which he served for many years as Secretary. He was also Vice-President and occasional player for Killearn Football Club, a skip for the Strathendrick Curling Club, a founder member and past President of the Strathendrick Rotary Club.

A gentle and unassuming man, John was renowned in business for his honesty. In his personal life he was a loving and caring husband and a devoted father. Failing health necessitated his move to Abbeyfield for the last months of his life. Here he settled well and enjoyed the company of his fellow residents and the visits from his many friends. He will be greatly missed in Killearn in whose history his family has played such a role.

William C. Sinclair 1938 – 2011

Bill was born in Possilpark, Glasgow. The son of a merchant seaman, he was the youngest of five and after moving to Balornock, he attended Albert Senior Secondary School. He then completed a seven-year Letter Press Apprenticeship with Glasgow Corporation Printing Department, studying at Stow College and winning the Silver Medal for Academic Achievement. He left Glasgow Corporation to work for five years with his father-in-law's business, Stotts Dairies, before joining Blackie & Sons Publishers. From there he moved to McCorquodale Scotland (Ltd.), a reputable printers and stationery firm originally based in Maxwell Street, Glasgow.



were then born. In his early years, Bill was a keen cyclist, frequently competing in endurance races. At 16 he was Junior Champion of Glasgow Road Club, and won many medals and held many records which stood unbeaten for numerous years. Many memorable training runs through Killearn drove the decision to relocate here in 1979. This move enabled Bill to pursue other well-loved interests like hill walking and trips up the lochside with the family.

Bill enjoyed playing golf and was very competitive. He was a member of both Cawder and Dornoch Golf Clubs, enjoying many trips abroad with his golfing buddies.

He was also an honorary member of

Strathendrick Curling Club.

Bill worked his way up the company, from Estimator to Work's Manager, to Managing Director. He was with McCorquodales for over 35 years, managing the business through mergers between Norton Opax, John Horn, Bowater and finally SCA Packaging. During this time Bill developed the business at the Pollokshaws site to such an extent that this resulted in an outstanding performance for the business under his management. It was here Bill pioneered the 'total customer solution' concept. He was passionate about his work and was highly respected for attention to detail and his commitment to the firm. One of his last work projects was to set up and develop the business in Prague.

Bill met his future wife, Jean, at the Albert Dance Hall on 1 January 1958 and on 5 September 1961 they were married at St John's Renfield Church, Kelvindale, thus celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary last year.

After the birth of Andrew in 1966, they moved from Dorchester Avenue to Bishopbriggs where Lorna and Debra

Bill and his family enjoyed many summer holidays to Wales, Cornwall and France. Holidays to the caravan at Dornoch were also important as it gave him a break from the pressures of work. It was here, and later at Golspie, that he and Jean spent many enjoyable days together. Bill's grandchildren, Michael, Lisa, Evander and Alice meant so much to him. He liked to take his family out for meals and favoured holding court at the Old Mill Inn.

Bill has been much loved. He was a man who could sort most things out, very practical, a 'Fixer'. He provided a lot of support to his family and work colleagues, and to local youngsters seeking employment. He always had high expectations of himself, and in this way was very driven. Although latterly Bill suffered some health problems, he had courageously and successfully come through heart surgery and so his death was unexpected. A strong, generous, fun-loving character, he will be greatly missed by all.

Margaret Penelope Skelton 1924 – 2011



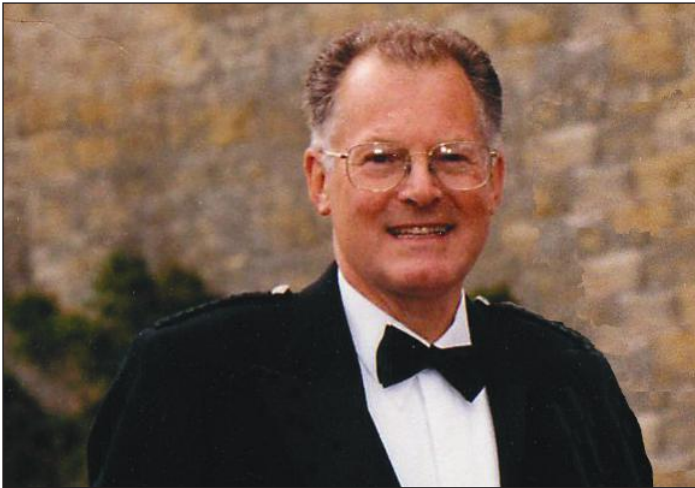
Margaret Penelope Skelton was born in Chelsea in 1924. Known as Penny (there were too many Margarets in her kindergarten class), she was the only daughter of Harry and Maud Skelton and as her half-brother John was seven years older, her childhood was fairly solitary. Having attended a number of boarding schools, she

joined the Wrens during the war and thereafter became the stage manager at the Citizens Theatre Glasgow. But it was when she inherited The Moss in the late 1950s that Penny really came into her own. Undaunted by the task of managing a large home and estate, she set-to modernizing and upgrading her properties, and this she did with some

style. Although small in stature, she was not afraid to take on any task – from lambing to calf-rearing, and from helping to demolish large sections of her home to helping to rebuild it. She was an enthusiastic architect, building technician and plumber, and a very unenthusiastic housekeeper.

Her interests varied from ornithology to embroidery, and anything and everything to do with natural history and the great outdoors. She was a good shot, a good scuba diver and a good gardener, but she never made a cake! She loved classical music, her dogs and people, and never failed to help anyone when help was needed. She was a stranger to the fashion world and a good friend to the tobacco industry, and although she neither married nor had children, she enjoyed the company of youngsters, and introduced many of them to the wonders of the natural world. She was involved with and became the local chairperson of many local associations – the Film Society, Poppy Scotland and Guide Dogs for the Blind being a few of them. But her overriding passion was always The World Wildlife Fund and Slimbridge, Peter Scott and his wife being close friends for many years. Most of all, Penny was blessed with an amazing capacity to make us laugh. She is sorely missed.

George Davison 1939 – 2011



George enjoyed a successful career in ship building and design. Brought up in Glasgow he qualified as a naval architect.

Just a year after George and Irene were married, George accepted an offer from the leading Greek Scaramanga yard owned by Hellenic; this led to a permanent position back in Piraeus as Head of Design at Hellenic in 1968. George spent the next seven years travelling the world winning new orders while supervising a high rate of production. George and Irene made lifelong friends during their stay in Greece.

An example of the scale of the operation at Scaramanga is the construction of their 15,000 ton SD 14 class of cargo ship. These bulk carriers were produced at the rate of one a month with the keel of the next vessel being laid on the day of the launch party of the previous ship.

1976 was an exciting time – a new job back in Glasgow as Naval Architect to Y-ARD, the Yarrow-owned shipyard later acquired by BAE. This new position also involved long spells overseas with trips to Australia, Spain, Korea and South Africa. George and Irene moved from Bearsden to a newly built house in Killearn with fine views towards Loch Lomond. George retired in 2001.

Back at home George enjoyed his sport. Always very competitive, he played a wicked game of badminton and was a keen golfer, becoming Captain of Buchanan Castle Golf Club in 2008. He even went on a luxury cruise for two by winning a competition in *The Herald*.

George was a steadfast Christian and very involved in Killearn Kirk as a member, long-serving elder and Captain of the Boys' Brigade.

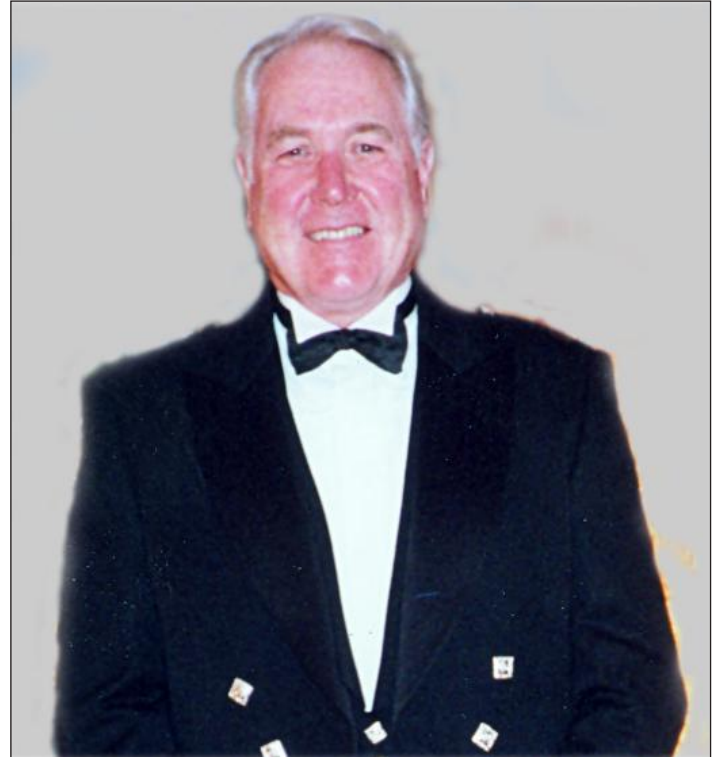
The joy of retirement centred on the family with their son, Graeme, graduating from St Andrews and going on to train with the RAF as a pilot. George and Irene's family increased with Graeme's marriage to Claire, and then with the addition of their two grandchildren, Logan and Carter.

George and Irene celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 2 September 2011.

George died on 16 November 2011. The retiring collection at his service raised £1,100 for the Boys Brigade. He was a determined and principled man with a twinkle in his eye. George will be remembered as a professional naval architect, as a good Christian friend and, above all, as a very caring family man.

Richard Drew

Thomas Anderson Blyth 1936 – 2011



Tom was born and brought up in Perth, the middle of three brothers. He attended Perth Academy, and as a keen Boy Scout then Rover Scout, he enjoyed outdoor activities and was given the name of 'Laughing Wolf', an apt name perhaps because in later life many people remarked on his smile. On leaving school he joined the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, known in Perth as the 'GA', where he trained to be an Insurance Inspector. Two years National Service in Germany followed and he became a corporal with the 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

On his return he met Sheila and they married in September 1961 in Perth. They were blessed with three lovely daughters – family being the first love of Tom's life. Early married life was spent in Kelvinside, then Milngavie, before settling in Killearn in 1975. Although 'a Man of Perth', Killearn became his home. He was an active member of Milngavie and Bearsden Round Table and then Blane Valley Round Table in Killearn.

Following the amalgamation of the GA with other insurance companies, Tom became a partner in two insurance brokers before forming T.A. Blyth and Associates in Bath Street, Glasgow. He had just sold his business when, months later, in 1994 he had a severe heart attack in Portugal. Working hard to return to fitness he devoted more time to the second love of his life – golf. A most competitive and talented golfer, not much could divert him from regular attendance with his friends at Buchanan Castle. Woe betide the person who jangled money in a pocket when Tom was teeing off.

Tom and Sheila celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last September. He is survived by his wife Sheila, daughters Carolyn, Pamela and Stephanie, and grandchildren Sarah Louise, Stuart, Mia and Louie.

Hugh Allan 1922 – 2012



Hugh was born at Kierhill in 1922. Later the family moved to Machar House in Killearn, where he attended Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School. On leaving school he went to work on the family farm, Blairvaid, near Drymen. He married Mary in 1946, and they moved into the farm together. In 1970 they built and moved into Cairneuch, just along the road from the farm, and opened the milk bar.

In 1987 they retired to The Shieling at Ballat, where Mary

died in 1991, and Hugh lived until his death.

In his long life, in all of his dealings with family, friends, farming and business colleagues, as well as various committees and associations, he did what he certainly could do, in farming parlance 'plough a straight furrow'.

Many in Killearn knew him, some for a very long time, and they extend their sympathies to all the members of the family

Hugh McArthur

Wilma Low 1936 – 2012

The *Courier* was saddened to hear of the death of Wilma Low, a former resident of Killearn.

The family lived at Lomond Cottage, Glengoyne Distillery, by Killearn. As mentioned at her funeral service, you couldn't get a better address than that. Brought up in a farming family on the Moray Firth, she married Ron and moved to this part of the world when Ron became assistant manager of Glengoyne Distillery. Ron and Wilma have a son, David, whom many of the local boys knew through their schooldays. David was recently married and Wilma was well enough to enjoy the wedding last July.

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Killearn Charity Burns Ceilidh



Natalie Kemsley, Jennifer Anderson and Lesley Svensson

The 2012 Killearn Charity Burns Ceilidh was held in a sparkly, Scottish themed village hall on Saturday, 28 January.

The evening started with a glass of bubbly and haggis canapés. We then sat down to a delicious three-course meal provided by TLC Catering (The Old Mill), before being entertained by Burns speakers from the floor. Finally, we danced the night away to the music of the Chitterybite Ceilidh band.

The evening was supported by a significant donation from Endrick Property, and Glengoyne Distillery provided a generous number of bottles of their malt whisky with which to toast Robbie Burns.

A total of £640 was raised for CHAS.

Heather McArthur

The Stirling Council archaeologists are considering organising a community dig to look for the site of the *Place of Killearn*. It is known that the old house lies in the vicinity of *Killearn Glen*, but the exact site has not been definitely identified and analytical techniques have improved considerably in the last 20 years since a previous limited survey was done. This would be a three-day investigation in the style of *Time Team* without the television coverage.

The proposed weekend is 8 to 10 June.

If the project goes ahead, more information will be available on the village and shop notice boards and on www.killearn.org.uk

Are you one of those people who think they should do more exercise, but never gets around to it? Or maybe you'd like to lose weight but find it difficult to motivate yourself? Or maybe you're just looking for a new hobby or a place to meet new people? Or maybe you'd like to improve or run the Hoolie 10k or Fun Run?

Whatever your goal, we are looking to start our own jogscotland group in Killearn. As qualified jogscotland Leaders, Lorna and Louise are ready to get Killearn moving.

Interested? For further information:

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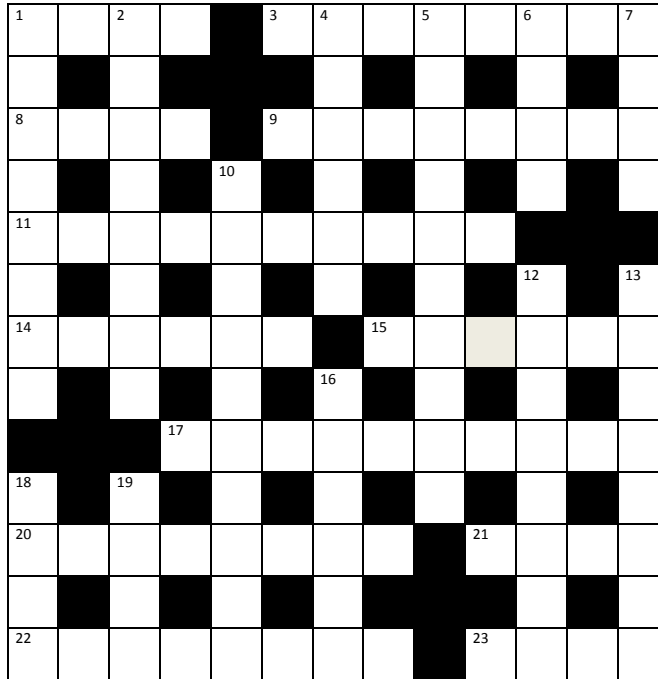
The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

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ACROSS

1. Dial around for 15 (4)
3. Local 15 gave protection in WW2 (8)
8. Pots sound as if they make money (4)
9. Cruel - silly to make noise inside (8)
11. Local 15 keeps you dry (10)
14. Write on score - gallery gone! (6)
15. Smart is this person! (6)
17. Being made minister is an arid notion (10)
20. No longer fashionable to have ancient animal house before the French(3,5)
21. Show two soldiers (4)
22. Where rapist or characters fly off (8)
23. Place of comfort when weapons return (4)

DOWN

1. We've got this local 15 covered! (8)
2. Used for prints, it is no cult (8)
4. XC (6)
5. Rider nears quiet surroundings (10)
6. Beam hits back (4)
7. Want in one edition (4)
10. Totter into Venetian 15 (10)
12. Past princess gets sight of split (8)
13. Permanent and on your feet (8)
16. 15 used for making flour (6)
18. 15 says yes in Indian State (4)
19. This flower sounds as if it has a smell (4)

Solution to the last Crossword Across: 1 cabinet; 8 eyesore; 9 malaria; 10 chronic; 11 skate; 13 replied to; 15 ownership; 18 oasis; 21 decoyed; 22 ingrown; 23 therein; 24 greener.
Down: 1 camps; 2 balsa; 3 nursery rhymes; 4 teacup; 5 Georgie Porgie; 6 downed; 7 velcro; 12 know; 14 taxi; 15 oddity; 16 nicked; 17 hiding; 19 spoon; 20 senior.

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: *John Field, Killearn*

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Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: *James Girven age 10*
Closing Date for both competitions – 31 March 2012. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Get Out for a Duck

Winter 2011–12 has been notable for its geese, with the Killearn area yielding scarcer species such as white-fronted and barnacle geese amongst our more usual greylag and pink-footed geese. But winter is also a great time to look for their smaller cousins – the ducks.

Not all ducks are the same. Some dabble; some dive. Some prefer the sea; others, fresh water. And they come in a variety of shapes and colours. In fact, about 20 species occur regularly in Britain. Of these, on looks alone, the goosander has to be one of my favourites.



Male Goosander

Goosanders belong to the ‘sawbill’ group of ducks, characterized by their serrated bills that help them snag fish. Two other species of sawbill occur in Britain: the similar red-breasted merganser, a common but generally coastal bird, and the beautiful smew, a scarce winter visitor to our rivers and reservoirs.

But it is the goosander that haunts the river systems around Killearn, the male resplendent with his dark, glossy green head contrasting with pinkish-white underparts and long, narrow red bill, the female rather different with her reddish

head and greyer body. Both are long-necked and have a shaggy crest which gives them a distinctive bulky head shape – although this is lost momentarily when the birds resurface from a dive, soaked, sleek and reptilian.



Female Goosander

Goosanders breed early in the year, nesting in tree holes and rock crevices by deep fresh water that is well-stocked with fish. Ducklings leave the nest early to swim behind parent birds in comical crèches. Look out for them along the Endrick and Blane Water, patrolling the channels with heads below the water in search of small fish, spawning frogs and invertebrates. Anglers are rarely their fans due to the goosanders’ penchant for juvenile salmon. In some places these ducks are culled.

Away from our rivers, goosanders also frequent lochs and reservoirs in winter. Hogganfield Loch in north Glasgow is a favoured spot. Here wintering birds have become very tame in recent years and abandon their piscivorous tendencies to join local mallards and mute swans in tussling for donations of bread.

Martin Culshaw

Colourful Killearn



I swear it isn't only for the mince pies that we do it! However I do wonder if, without the motivation of these small sweet treats, the Christmas tree at the Kirk would ever see the dim light of a December day. Floods this year, rather than last year's snowdrifts,

were sent to hamper our fir-raising, but failed to dampen the occasion. Our feet perhaps, but not the occasion. Up went the tree, on went the lights (with scarcely a flicker) and Christmas was heralded for another year. Not even the stiff breezes later in the month troubled the belted and braced tree which remained steadfastly upright to the last, unlike some of its wild cousins.

But this was the past, and now the year has turned and we look forward to the golden explosion of daffodils in our tubs and verges. With snowdrops already peeping shyly out, surely the daffs cannot be too far behind? Unless the weather turns...

Our thanks to Edenmill for supplying the beautiful tree, and Jill for the mince pies.

To join us in making Killearn more colourful, please contact Iain Bowie (550349). *MG*

PS Could whoever danced the fandango in our flower tubs at the Co-op please find somewhere else to do it next time?!





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