



ISSUE 30

WINTER 2014

£1

*Seasonal Greetings
to all our Readers*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir

Further to What's in a Name

In 2001 when the Millennium Committee met to decide what to do with the money made from the 30 events which took place during the millennium year, on the agenda was a 'welcome' sign for the village. It was agreed unanimously that these should be made, and much deliberation was given to the design and wording of the version you can see today along the roads leading into Killearn.

However, I congratulate Mr Knight on his most thorough research regarding the different spellings of the village name. In 2001 those of us on the committee did not have the benefit of Iain Taylor's Place-names of Scotland (published in 2011). And we must also thank Mr Knight for once again bringing to the attention of readers our own The Parish of Killearn, in its two early editions, published between 1972 and 1988.

Now let's look at this from a commercial view point and weigh up the pros and cons. Our Committee's aim was to show the village name in the first millennium and in the current, second millennium, as it were, and that there was a similarity between the two that would be meaningful. Not all visitors to Killearn are academics, and our objective was to make it simple and correct in detail without complications.

The writer has taken a copy of the articles detailed in Issue 29, and will install them in our archive for future reference.

J. Fallas

ED: I think this brings the conversation to a satisfactory close, don't you?

Dear Sir,

Why! Why! Why! do drivers insist on parking their vehicles on part of the pavement? It usually solves nothing, but creates many other problems, which apparently the owners are unaware of because they occur in their absence. Rarely is there sufficient room remaining on the road to allow two cars to pass and one has to stop anyway – no different from if the vehicle was parked correctly on the road.

When the vehicle is parked on the pavement it usually means that wheelchair, push chair and pram users, all of whom the pavements are provided for, cannot proceed safely; they have to either find an alternative route or risk going into the road to get past. How many of you have had your car sides scratched by people squeezing past?

It should be noted that, if the pavement is less than 4 feet wide, parking in this manner contravenes the Highway Code and the offender is liable to prosecution.

The pavements are not designed to take the weight of any vehicle, and you will notice that many pavement surfaces are uneven and starting to break up near the roadside this is often as a direct result of such parking.

Vehicle drivers, please consider those entitled to use the pavements and not encroach on their space when parking. You are the first to complain when pedestrians are in the road.

Anonymous Killearn Resident

Dear Sir

The growing increase in traffic passing through the village is getting worse year on year. Not so terribly long ago, a driver could come up Station Road, stop at Balforn Road, and only need to pause long enough to glance left and right before driving off. Now, one has to sit and wait. And wait. Not only are drivers affected by this increase, but so are those of us on foot. No longer can we cross the road with the ease previous enjoyed; now we have to cross with some rapidity to avoid the through traffic.

It is not just an increase in cars. Because of the number of houses built in Balforn, there is an associated increase of tradesmen, delivery vehicles and so forth. The 60 new houses being built in that village will only add to our problems. And what happens when 50 more are built in Killearn?

Vehicles do speed through the village, especially along the Balforn Road and through the village and down Station Road.

Perhaps a few strategically placed speed bumps and a roundabout at the top of Station Road would help and allow those of us less nimble to cross the roads with less trepidation?

*Yours faithfully
Old Dodger*

Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 14 March 2015.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 30 January 2015. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 30 January 2015. Send them to:

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

Please support our advertisers who make the Courier possible.

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Oops!

In the last issue, we published a photograph in the Village Hall article of two people admiring the digital piano which had been gifted to the village. We named one as Ros Gibson when, of course, it should have been Ros MacGowan. We apologise for any confusion, and also to the two ladies concerned.
Ed.

Cover Picture

Killearn in Winter
photograph by JW

Editorial

Well, here we are heading into winter and all that that brings with it. Looking back, we have all enjoyed a great summer, one which has possibly been the best we've had for many a long year. It was so dry that many of the lawns in the village started to turn brown through lack of rain. However, in spite of the best efforts by Scottish Water to interrupt our water supply, gardeners still managed to keep their lawns and gardens in good shape. It was a great year for fruit and veg. as well and some of the entries at the Horticultural Show were superb.

Looking forward, the houses in the 'turnip field' have been finished (did I miss the opening ceremony; was there one?) and are now occupied and the whole area is, at long last, turning back to a degree of normality.

Christmas is just around the corner and by the time you get this issue, it's less than 6 weeks away so the pressure is on to get the Christmas shopping done! Never fear, our advertisers continue to support us and inside you'll find lots of adverts giving you ideas for the festive season and where to buy them. We're very fortunate that we continue to enjoy their support and we in turn should support them.

Some of the articles inside have a Christmas theme to them and these include a recipe from Three Sisters Bake and a selection of wines recommended by our wine expert.

We've also had (again) some changes to the *Courier* Group and you can read about them on page 4.

Speaking of changes, we have all had the opportunity of deciding the future of Killearn and what changes we would like to see taking place. The Killearn Community Futures Company is developing a Community Action Plan and has delivered a questionnaire to every household in the Parish. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard so get it filled in; after all, the village is yours and your children's.

Enjoy this issue; we at the *Courier* hope you have a very merry Christmas and a great 2015.

Ian
Ian Dickie, Editor

NOTICE BOARD

- 15 Nov *West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice* pre-Christmas Fayre. McLintock Hall, Balfron, 10am – 3pm. Contact Katie Thomson (550712).
- 16–23 Nov *Guild Week*.
- 17 Nov *Strathendrick Rotary Club* meeting. The Killearn Hotel, 6.30 for 7pm. Contact David Rodger (d.rodger@btinternet.com).
- 18 Nov *Guild* meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 19 Nov *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 26 Nov *Killearn Health Centre* closed from 12.30pm for staff training.
- 27 Nov *Drymen & District Local History Society*. Illustrated talk by Derek Alexander on 'Bannockburn, the Centre, the Battle and New Discoveries'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk.
- 27–29 Nov *FADs 'Cinderella'*. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs. – Sat., 7.30pm and matinee Sat. 2pm. Tickets from Killearn Pharmacy or Liz Brown (860078).
- 29 Nov *Guild Sale of Work*. Kirk Hall, 10.30am – 12.30pm.
- 4 Dec *Guild and Thursday Club*. Joint meeting, 2pm.
- 5 Dec *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *Sunshine on Leith*. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org.
- 5 Dec *Guild Christmas Evening*. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 6 Dec *Killearn Country Market Christmas Cracker*. Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
- 7 Dec *Strathendrick Singers*. Christmas Concert. Gartmore Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 4–6 Dec *FADs 'Cinderella'*. Menzies Hall, Fintry. (See above, 27–29 Nov.)
- 12 Dec *Strathendrick Singers* Christmas concert. Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm. Tickets from choir members or contact secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk.
- 15 Dec *Killearn Kirk* nativity service, 10.30am.
- 16 Dec *Killearn Guild*. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 17 Dec *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 20 Dec *Killearn Kirk* Christmas Concert in aid of Maggie's Centre, Glasgow, and Killearn Kirk, 6–7pm, tickets £8 (under 16 years free).
- 24 Dec *Killearn Kirk* Watch Night service
- 25 Dec *Killearn Kirk* Family Christmas Day service, 10am.
- 25/26 Dec *Killearn Health Centre* closed. Online prescription ordering service available throughout holidays: www.killearnhealthcentre.com.
- 1/2 Jan *Killearn Health Centre* closed.
- 5 Jan *Monday Music* spring term starts. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166).
- 6 Jan *Guild* meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 20 Jan *Guild* meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 21 Jan *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 22 Jan *Drymen & District Local History Society*. Talk by Dr W.W. Knox on 'Education and Opportunity in 19th-Century Scotland'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk
- 3 Feb *Guild* meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 6 Feb *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org.
- 17 Feb *Guild* meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
- 18 Feb *Killearn Community Council* meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
- 19 Feb *Killearn Health Centre* closed from 12.30pm for staff training.
- 20 Feb *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *Erin Brockovich*. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org
- 21 Feb *Strathendrick Singers* musical coffee morning. Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am – 12 noon. Tickets from members or secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk.
- 26 Feb *Drymen & District Local History Society*. Talk by Dr Alastair Dury on 'Friendly Societies'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk.
- 3 Mar *Guild* meeting. Street Pastors. Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm.
- 6 Mar *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *The Butler*. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org.
- 7 Mar *Killearn Country Market*. Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
- 17 Mar *Guild* AGM followed by meal. Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm.

If you have any dates for the Spring 2015 issue of the Diary (mid March until the end of August), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net

Mackay – McNulty



Jemma Mackay and John McNulty had a Celtic handfasting ceremony on 3 May 2014 at Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh. The couple now make their home in Liverpool where Jemma works as a support worker and John works as a biomedical scientist.

More Changes at the *Courier*

In the Summer edition, we mentioned that there had been a couple of changes in our group. Well, there have been a few more since then.

We have been joined by Jacky Young, who will be helping out with editing, and two teenagers, Rosalie Williamson and Morven Paterson. Both these 'Cubs' will be submitting articles which will reflect the views of our younger readers. That's the good news.

The bad news is that we are still looking for someone to help Gwen Stewart contact advertisers and even worse Nick Hawkins is leaving, so we are looking for a treasurer as well. He is retiring from the BBC at Christmas and with wife Jackie, intends to travel extensively for a year. Nick has been with us since we started and his skills as



our treasurer have ensured that we have kept afloat. He has also been a valued contributor, writing for the *Courier*, particularly covering local sports. Many thanks Nick, we'll see you when you get back, and have a great year. (Don't suppose you'd consider being our foreign correspondent...?) *Ed.*

STOP PRESS! Peter Bailey has agreed to step into the treasurer's spot until Nick returns from his travels.

Introducing the *Courier* Cubs!

Having had a long standing passion for writing, I am really excited by the opportunity of getting involved in our local newspaper. I am 15 years old and currently studying for my Highers at Bearsden Academy. I am hoping to be able to bring a young person's twist on stories covered by the *Courier*, while learning from the experts who are already here! I am interested in film, drama, baking and all the usual teenage devices.

Rosalie Williamson

As a girl who has lived in Killearn my whole life, I am delighted to be writing and reporting for the Killearn *Courier* during my sixth year at Balforn High School. My interests range from competitive sport to the dramatic arts, but discovering new music is my main passion. It's something that never fails to excite me as I find myself inspired by music from all generations. Around school, I am always reminded that free time is to be used productively, so it's fair to say that I'm rather relieved to have found something that will get me out of the habit of chatting to (some may call it distracting) the person next to me. I'm thoroughly looking forward to my time working with the team at the *Killearn Courier*.

Morven Paterson





Smartwater Project

On 29 September, Police Scotland launched a crime prevention scheme at Killearn Village Hall. The scheme involves police providing 'Smartwater' property marking kits to some householders in the Strathblane and Killearn communities in areas which analysis suggests are attractive to housebreakers. Police officers are currently distributing kits in Killearn.

Smartwater is a commercial product and is a liquid used to mark items of property (mobile phones, computers, jewellery, for example). The chemical is invisible once dry, but can be seen using the correct ultraviolet light. The chemical contains a unique marker which is registered to the user and can help to reunite recovered property with the owner. The scheme also provides signs displayed on main road routes around the community to let potential criminals know that the product is in use. Other communities where the scheme is operated have experienced a dramatic reduction in crime.

Killearn and Strathblane have been chosen along with communities in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and other towns and cities as areas where the scheme is likely to work well.

If you are interested in using Smartwater, but aren't included in the current scheme, you can purchase it online at:

www.smartwater.com.

Click on the SHOP button to see a red panel on the right advertising a special offer that Police Scotland have negotiated for us: £25 with lifetime registration – a very significant reduction!

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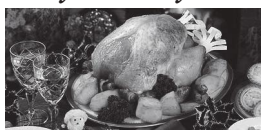
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WEDNESDAY – Balforn (am), Killearn (pm)

Christmas Post

The Killearn Youth organisations/groups and their supporters will take up the challenge of operating a Christmas Post within the *village speed sign boundaries*.

Last year you donated just over £839 to send to Children's Hospice Association Scotland. Please help us to send another donation this Christmas by supporting the Christmas Post.

The collecting boxes and donation boxes will go out on Monday, 1 December at the Killearn Pharmacy and Killearn Butchers. Collections will be made daily. Deliveries will be made during the week commencing 8 and 15 December. There will also be a box sited in the Church on Sunday mornings.

Sue Beck – 550485
or 1stkillearnguides@gmail.com

Charity Gala Auction and Dinner



Killearn Village Hall was abuzz with excitement and laughter as the Gala Auction and Dinner started on the evening of Friday, 3 October. This fund raising event benefitted both the Kirk and CHAS (Robin House).

Carole Young gave a warm welcome and informed those present about the work of the Church in Killearn and the wider work achieved through the many activities of Crossreach. Scott Maxwell from CHAS informed the guests about the work caring for children with life shortening conditions at their two hospices – Robin House, Balloch and Rachel House, Kinross. CHAS also provides nursing and support workers who can visit young people at home if they are unable to attend one of the hospices. A moving testament was read from one of the parents.

Guests enjoyed music from violinist Seona Glen, and were entertained by Anthony Weld-Forrester of Sotheby's as he auctioned 20 lots in 30 minutes ranging from a Christmas cake and shepherd's crook to a VIP hospitality sailing day for 12 people aboard Sir Arnold Clark's racing yacht Drum.

Killearn Kirk thanked everyone who so generously donated auction items, prizes, supplies and services that contributed to the success of the evening.

Over £13,000 was raised for the two charities and will be divided between Killearn Kirk and CHAS (Robin House). This was a very enjoyable and worthwhile community event.

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Fashion Show

On a sunny Sunday in September, local ladies turned out in force to raise almost £3,000 for Cancer Research UK.

CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee and Frox of Falkirk staged a luncheon and fashion show at Culcreuch Castle in Fintry which realised £2,934.05.

The castle and grounds looked splendid in the autumn sunshine, and a lovely lunch was enjoyed by everyone. Fiona Wilson of Frox and her team of models put on a great show, ranging from simple tops and trousers to a stunning sequin dress and glorious wedding outfits.

The committee expressed their thanks to all involved for contributing to the total amount raised and for helping to make such an enjoyable afternoon.

Raffle prizes were donated by Frox of Falkirk; Culcreuch Castle; Beauty at No 25 in Milngavie; Endrick Trading Ltd in Balfron; Aesthetic Cosmetics, Dumbarton Road, Glasgow; Brogan Hair Salon in Milngavie; Keith Baxter Golf Professional at Buchanan Castle Golf Club; T&R Skinner Butchers in Kippen; Oakwood Garden Centre, Killearn; The Kippen Inn and Rhubarb Lime Coffee Shop also in Kippen.



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01360 551160 or 07538945650.

Many thanks, Lynne McVicar.

Killearn Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving

Killearn Primary School children and parents continue to give hundreds of tins of food to Killearn Kirk for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service which was held on 5 October. The produce was collected by Glasgow City Mission to help feed the destitute and homeless people of Glasgow.



The service was followed by a soup-and-bread lunch at which donations totalling £250 were collected for the Mission.

The Kirk are most grateful to the school and to everyone who contributed. It is indeed 'better to give than to receive for with such sacrifices God is well pleased'

News from Killearn Primary School

It has been a busy first term at Killearn Primary. All the classes have started a project called 'Killearn 2000'.

Killearn Primary School is doing a performance called 'Killearn 2000'. The show is all about Killearn and everybody's ideas are going to be included. 'Killearn 2000' will look at the history of Killearn over the last 2,000 years. Mr David Smith (Tapsalteerie Theatre Scotland) is organising, helping and scripting the performance.

This event is open to the entire Killearn community. Please look out for further advertising or contact the school for additional information on 550430 or killearnps@stirling.gov.uk.

The Press Gang

In Killearn Primary we are proud to be an Eco School. Every year we do lots of things to keep our green flag. This year, Primary 5 are responsible for waste and we would like your help. You can now come down to Killearn Primary School Main Entrance to recycle your:

- ◆ Old mobile phones
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Printer cartridges
- ◆ Old gadgets e.g. Sat navs
- ◆ Old clothes (Container in the car park)

There is a box in the conservatory labelled **Recycle & Raise**. When this is full, we will send it to the Recycling Factory to raise funds for our school. If you would like to know more, please contact Primary 5.

*By Lily and Rebecca
Primary 5 KPS*





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Jaguar E Type Series III Roadster



The E-Type Series III is my first, and so far only, classic car. Having owned several Jaguars during my working life, on retirement I converted to a more practical Volvo C70. I had set out to find a desirable classic and saw a nice looking Series III E-Type in an Edinburgh dealer's showroom, but at a premium asking price. I then contacted the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club and eventually negotiated the purchase of my Series III E-Type from a private seller. I had the car looked over by another E-Type owner and eventually took possession of it in December 2009. The car was in reasonable but not great condition, so my first call was to have it serviced thoroughly, and this was done by Jamie Gibbon in Bearsden. This improved the general running significantly – it had only been running on 10 of its 12 cylinders and changing the black treacle oil made quite a difference.

The restoration amounted to a full paint strip followed by a metal inspection. A decision was then made to replace the four-part front end and a few rear panels together with the sills and doors. Many repairs had already been carried out on the bodywork and, rather than continue a losing battle against corrosion, it was decided to replace much of the body shell.

John McAleese, a body shop in Troon, sourced the right quality of metal and we ended back at the Jaguar factory itself, where they had helpfully just manufactured two complete front ends for the Series III in 2010. This was sent up, and over the next three months it was sized, undercoated several times and then painted in John's shop.

The following winter I had the rear axle taken off. Calling in one day, I found all the rear axle parts laid out in symmetrical order, from side to side. Each part had been cleaned, painted or replaced including the Spax shock absorbers.

The work, service and advice given by John and his brother, Kenny, was to a very high standard. Although they specialised in Jaguars, they were always ready to show off their other projects, including a 1929 Vauxhall with a part from a Zeppelin in the engine!

Finally in the winter of 2012–13, the radiator was removed for service and repair, some electrical work carried out and new diaphragms fitted to the seats.

The car has taken part in many of the Strathendrick Classic Car runs and has also appeared at the Balfon Bash and the Killearn Hoolie.

The Series III E-Type was manufactured from 1971–1974 and was only one of three production cars with a V12 engine (the others being Ferrari and Lamborghini). The Series III Roadster was distinguishable by its longer wheelbase which used

the floor pan from the previous 2+2, the flared wheel arches and larger mesh grille. The E-Type was the first Jaguar to be fitted with the V12 engine which would later feature in its XJ saloons. The V12 5.3-litre engine has four Stromberg carburetors, producing 275bhp when new and managed 15mpg in an era when fuel consumption wasn't such a big deal. The car cost £3,123 in 1972 and could be encouraged up to 146mph where appropriate – only 1mph slower than the Ferrari.

Robin Johnston



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Strathendrick Classic Car Club

Having suffered a very wet Spring run, we looked forward to glorious sunshine for the remainder of the driving season, those of us with soft top cars in particular. We were in the main not disappointed. There were good turnouts at the three local village festivals. Over ten cars appeared at the Killearn Hoolie, not quite as many at the Drymen Gala, which was on the same day. Another good number of cars were at the Balfroon Bash; one was even sold at that event!

Our luck ran out for our annual Club Run, however. We started from House of Darroch in rain and with a few dryish if not bright spells, and we finished in rain. Only six cars took part. The weather played some part in the size of the party. In spite of the weather, Angus Graham and crew Roger Martin braved the elements with the hood in the Aston Martin down all the way. The route was by way of Garelochhead, Couport and the back roads of Cove, which many didn't know existed and some still don't know! We returned by Helensburgh, Cardross, Alexandria and Jamestown – at least those that got the navigation correct did.

At the finish, over lunch, our route organiser determined the most observant crew. The driver who received the Salver for observation and navigation was Doug Ashworth in his Morgan.

Autumn had set in by our next run, which was a visit to the Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray. Hoods were down all the way. With no set route, some took the direct road by Loch Lomond while others braved Loch Long side. A total of ten cars and crews took part and enjoyed both the great weather and a good lunch.

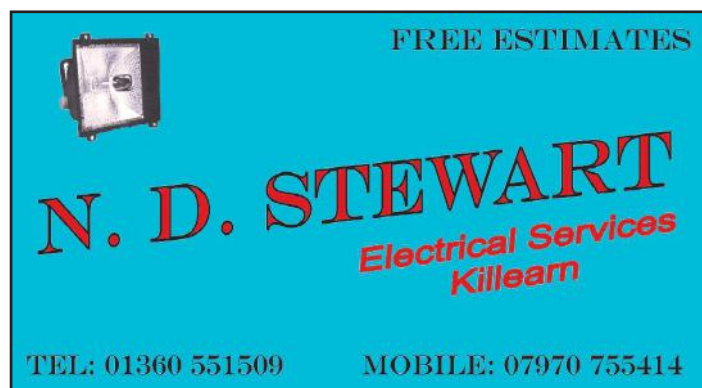
The final run of the year was on 16 October for lunch at the Lion and Unicorn in Thornhill.

The winter session will start at Buchanan Castle Golf Club on Wednesday, 19 November at 6.45pm for 7.15pm, for a meal followed by a talk by one of our members, Laurence Grainger.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings which are held monthly through the winter. Please advise myself or Secretary Robin Johnston if you wish to attend. You don't need a car, just an interest will do!

We are already looking forward to Spring. Our two-day event is booked for the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, for Sunday and Monday, 24–25 May 2015. Mike Gastall has already sussed out the routes.

Douglas Arthur, Chairman SCCC



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What does the independence debate mean for young Scots?

For months and months there had been a build-up of epic proportions filled with debates and what seemed like endless argument, but in the end it all came down to one single question: would Scotland become independent?

And we got our answer. But that answer seems to have thrown up even more questions about where our nation goes from here. The debate between Westminster and Holyrood may continue to rage, but what about the citizens of the nation who were at the heart of the vote, who had their voices heard politically for the first time and didn't let this go by them – the young people of Scotland?

Often young people, when they think of political debates, imagine middle-aged men in suits, droning on and making all the decisions – the televised debates with Alex Salmond and Alastair Darling, for example. But there was more to the build-up to the referendum than this. What some saw as stereotypical yawn inducing politics was replaced with the peoples' politics, a modern structured discussion, played out in schools, homes, workplaces and pubs, a display of democracy in action.

The BBC has reported that over 100,000 young people aged 16 and 17 registered as voters in Scotland for first time, enabling them to vote in the referendum, following the Scottish parliament legislation that gave them this unprecedented right.

Whether it was this, or the general mood in Scotland as the vote approached, the referendum ignited the interest of the young. At a recent debate sponsored by the *Sunday Herald* which took place at the Bloody Scotland Crime Fiction Festival in Stirling in the days following the referendum, veteran Scottish writer William McIlvanney described the young as 'masters and mistresses of technology', and this was nowhere more evident than on social media as the pre-poll debate raged on.

On 17 September 2014, Twitter reported that there had been 2.3 million tweets using the hashtag #indyref in the previous 30 days. In a comparable period, Facebook reported that it had seen 10 million interactions which had involved the referendum. Given these levels of activity on social media, it is perhaps not surprising that McIlvanney described technology as a tool at the disposal of the young, which would enable them not just to feel the political passion, but to deliver their vision of what they want the world to be like.

The Bloody Scotland debate saw Scottish historian Sir Tom Devine, academic Mona Siddiqui, musician and activist Karine Polwart, as well McIlvanney himself, discuss how the momentum created by the involvement of young people in the debate could be harnessed so as to create something great which went beyond the Better Together and Yes campaigns. The panel concluded, 'Young people need their voice to count... Politicians have to pay attention.'

Subsequently, Prime Minister David Cameron has ruled out reducing the voting age to 16. In an

interview given to Sky News in September he was quoted as saying, 'I just think that 18 is the right age for majority and the right age to vote. Voting is an enormous privilege and a right, but it's a right you should get at 18.' There seems to be little chance of the voting age being reduced to 16 before the next General Election on 7 May 2015.

Despite this, there is widespread support for reducing the voting age amongst the other political parties. Ed Miliband has confirmed the support of the Labour party, and the policy is also shared by the Liberal Democrats, the Green party and even UKIP. It has been SNP policy for a number of years.

While there has been speculation that the SNP have supported lowering the voting age because they believed that this would boost a yes vote, most recent information suggests that 16- and 17-years-olds actually tended to favour the Better Together camp. But that is not the most interesting voting: what is really important is the previously unimaginable levels of turnout for the vote – 90.1 per cent in the Stirling Council area, some of that boosted by first-time teenage voters.

Will the voting age in Scotland be reduced for the Scottish parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in 2016? That remains to be seen, but there is certainly a ground swell of opinion towards that taking place. If it happens, one legacy of the referendum could be that young people finally have the opportunity to become engaged in and to shape political debate in an unprecedented way.

Rosalie Williamson

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Christmas Cards



The excitement of the post dropping through the letter box in the run up to Christmas is one of the pleasures of this time of year. You eagerly open the envelope to discover who the card is from. Is there a message from a friend or relative with whom you have lost touch or is it one of those large corporate cards from a company you have done business with?

There is nothing like the delight of opening the envelope to find a hand-made card. It is so much more personal than a bought card, one on which time and trouble has been taken, not just money spent.

So why not make some of your own cards this Christmas to send to those special friends and relatives. I can hear the excuses now. I haven't time in my busy life; it is too difficult and I don't have the skill; I am depriving the charities of a major source of their income. The last one is a serious point, but have you noticed how much the charity actually receives. I am holding a pack from one of the better ones, the charity gets just 35p of the £3.50 you paid for them.



So this Christmas, why not make some of your own cards, then buy charity cards for the rest, making sure you purchase those that donate the most. Finally send the money you save to the charity of your choice.

Making your own cards is not difficult, the rule is 'keep it simple'. The example above is made from coloured card folded in two; the size to your taste. Decorate by cutting out the shapes – the border, the tree and the presents from any scrap coloured or shiny paper you have and glue them on with PVA adhesive. Inside the card write your own personal seasonal greeting. The fun is in thinking up your own design.

If you aspire to something more elaborate, there is a wealth of ideas on the internet, just Google 'how to make Christmas cards' and take your pick. There are even step-by-step instructions on Youtube. No computer, then invest in a craft book or use your imagination.

Have a wonderful and productive Christmas.

PW

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Poo to You, too!



Killlearn Path Group volunteers carry out litter picking and vegetation clearance on the various paths within Killlearn Parish, and it continues to dismay our volunteers that the first activity is still so necessary. However there is one item of litter which, as well as being particularly

offensive, really has us all flummoxed. Why are so many dog poo bags left tied to trees and bushes, or deposited in the path side vegetation? Is it because the dog owner believes that, having made the effort to bag and tie the poo, they have discharged their duty? Do they assume that the responsibility lies with someone else to pick it up and dispose of it? Perhaps they have a notion that it is lucky, like the ancient superstition of tying pieces of material to the branches of a wishing tree? Or is it a form of modern art along the lines of Tracey Emin's bed? Whatever it is, we are not impressed.

Norman McNab,

Killlearn Path Group Convener

Paths Group's Good Deed



Killlearn Paths Group with the eight bags of litter picked up between Killlearn Hotel and Allan Road. They'd like to remind residents that there are better places than the hedges to dump cans, bottles, dog bags – both empty and full – or old socks. The wire coat hanger has gone to a good home, and the fire hydrant opposite Endrick Road awaits further excavation.

PS & GS

Three Sisters Bake are here!

After a couple of months of closure, the coffee shop space in Killearn Village Hall will be reopening on 6 November as 'Three Sisters Bake', a café and craft boutique. Three Sisters Bake, operated by siblings Gillian (35), Nichola (33) and Linsey (30) Reith from Bridge of Weir in Renfrewshire, has two existing café premises, one in Quarriers Village and one in the grounds of Finlaystone Country Estate.



Gillian Reith, eldest of the sisters told the *Courier*, 'We are so excited to be opening a café in Killearn. We have had the pleasure of catering for a couple of weddings in the hall since its renovation and absolutely fell in love with the space. The village has a very similar tight knit community atmosphere to our original café location at Quarriers Village and we look forward to settling in and meeting our new neighbours.

The Reith sisters established Three Sisters Bake in Quarriers Village three years ago, bringing together their combined hospitality experience. Youngest sister Linsey, is a trained chef;

Nichola is a baker who specialises in wedding cakes and oversees the home baking for the café, and Gillian's experience lies in front of house



management. The girls were motivated to start their business following a trip to Australia where they were impressed by the café culture and wide range of independent coffee shops.

Since then, they have moved into wedding catering, food truck street food and have also had a cookbook published. The menu at Killearn Village Hall will incorporate a range of their homemade soups, sandwiches, sharing platters, home-baked cakes, scones, tray bakes and breads.

We welcome all feedback, so we'd be delighted to hear any ideas or thoughts people might have on what they might like to see us offering, by way of food, drinks or activities!'

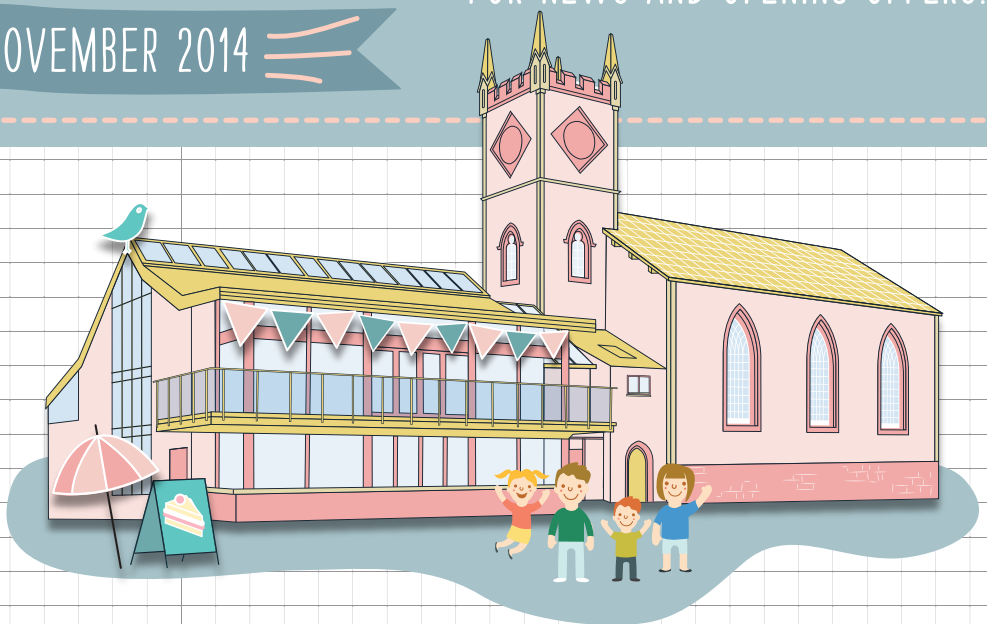


three sisters bake
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Village Hall News

As reported in the previous edition of the *Courier*, Simon and Sarah Whitley have decided not to continue with the licence of the village hall coffee shop and we wish Simon well in his new role with the Dorchester hotel group in London

At the same time we are delighted to announce the appointment of Three Sisters Bake, who will be spending most of October redesigning our village hall café interior to link in with their own café style at Quarriers in Bridge of Weir and in preparation for the opening on 6 November.

We have known the Three Sisters for some time as they have catered for weddings in the hall on a number of occasions and they have an excellent reputation in the Scottish wedding market. We hope you will all welcome them to Killearn with a visit to their new café.

KCFC and the Hall Operating Committee would like to stress that things will continue very much as before. But Three Sisters Bake will have exclusive rights for all weddings and major events. No longer will there be an option for bringing in an external caterer. Hirers of the Main Hall who plan to self-cater, bringing their own food and only needing minimal access to the kitchen, will not be affected. Sale of alcohol in the hall will be through Three Sisters Bake, the licence holder.

Finally, we emphasise our awareness of our responsibility to the community for running the village hall as a community asset but point out that we also need to manage the hall in a financially effective way. To balance this responsibility we have increased charges for weddings by 50% which heavily subsidised charging rates for other users in the past.

BS

Astrid String Quartet Wows Killearn



On Friday, 1 August, a large audience in Killearn Village Hall was treated to a concert of chamber music by the Astrid String Quartet. The four young ladies – Elanor Gunn, Eve Kennedy, Sarah Leonard and Julia Wagner – delighted us with their talent.

The major work of the evening was Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 11. This challenging work was ably delivered. The opening movement (Moderato e semplice) was measured and the phrases beautifully shaped. The well-known melodies of the Andante Catabile 'sang' melodically, and it was taken at a suitably flowing tempo. The third and fourth movements sparkled with vigorous, energetic playing; the whole, a cohesive musical performance.

The second half of the programme had something for everyone. Here the Astrid Quartet showed their ability to change style with ease, from the precision and delicacy of Haydn and Mozart to the rich romanticism of Borodin, Dvorak and Elgar. Bartók's *Romanian Dances* were given a fresh treatment, and the evening rounded off with a nod to Scottish traditional music with Edward McGuire's *Fiddler's Farewell*.

This young ensemble played with technical competence and maturity, never forcing the tempi, allowing the phrases to breathe and creating some truly magical moments.

Please come back soon, Astrid Quartet.

R. MacGowan



The making of *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge*

The BBC natural history series, *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge* was a big hit on BBC 1 Scotland and network BBC 2 last year. Narrated by Ewan McGregor, the four-part series was three years in the making and was estimated to have reached one in four of the Scottish population.

But did you know that the series was masterminded from the village of Killearn? Originally arriving in April 2011, producers Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery moved their family up from Bristol and established their company, Maramedia, as a leading natural history brand. With the *Hebrides* completed, they've now embarked on a Highlands series for transmission in 2016.

So what does it take to make a major natural history series on the Highlands and Islands?

In an entertaining evening, Nigel will show excerpts from both series alongside tales of how the superb footage was captured. From cold-water reefs to the ground-breaking aerial footage of the Corryvreckan whirlpool; the red deer rut on Rum to whales and dolphins on the Outer Isles.

Watch out for our film night in the Village Hall in January – it'll be an ideal antidote to the winter blues.

BS

KCC News

Killearn Community Council has set up a mailing list which is normally used to send monthly updates by email with information relevant to the Killearn community. Additional emails might be sent in emergency or urgent situations such as extreme weather. Police Scotland know that we maintain this list and may make use of it should the occasion arise.

Details of how to subscribe are on our website. Please be assured that KCC will not use your email address for any other purpose, nor pass it to anyone else. You may unsubscribe at any time.

As this is a new venture for us we are very keen to evaluate its success, or otherwise. Please get in touch via our website if you have any comments or suggestions for further development:

www.killearncc.org.uk

*Margery Burdon,
Secretary KCC*

RBS News

Most of you will be aware that the Drymen branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland closed on 21 October. However, many of you may not be aware that the Mobile Bank from Helensburgh is in the car park opposite Killearn Co-op on a Friday from 10.50 to 11.10. It then goes to the car park in Balfron from 11.30 to 11.50.

This timetable may change with the closure of the branch in Drymen, but can be checked on the Royal Bank website:

<http://tinyurl.com/rbsmobh>



Christmas Wines



Getting your Christmas wine selections right can be tricky at Christmas. Here are three that will help the holiday go with a swing. And even better, they can all be found at our new and improved Co-op.

Prosecco (£9.99)

Did you know? Prosecco was the original sparkler in the Bellini cocktail.

This is the perfect festive wine. Make like the Italians and pop the cork at 11am for a little glass to get the taste buds going and the bubbles flowing. Prosecco has a little more sweetness than Champagne, making it a really good option when you are trying to keep everyone happy with the glass in their hand. An ideal wine to drink while preparing the Christmas dinner, or bringing in the New Year.

Campo Viejo Rioja (£8.99)

Did you know? Before we had alcopops, Rioja was the first ever ready-to-drink on the market. The wineries keep the wines until they consider them perfect, then send them out for sale.

I have chosen this very well-known red as it really goes well with the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Rioja is such an approachable red wine, with lovely warm flavours making it a great winter wine anyway, and at Christmas you can be sure that everyone will enjoy the balance of berry fruit and vanilla oak.

Chablis AC (£9.99)

Did you know? Chablis is made from the chardonnay grape in the region of Chablis in France, and the region's oldest soil dates back to the Upper Jurassic period, over 180 million years ago.

Chablis is one of the few white wines that will sit comfortably on the Christmas dinner table. It will work well with the roast turkey, without overpowering it, and is a perfect choice if you are having a smoked salmon or prawn starter.

Elaine Taylor

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Killearn Health Centre News

Partnership News

Dr Anna Pickering, previously our trainee, joined us as partner on 1 October 2014. We wish Dr Pickering all the best for a very long and happy career at Killearn Health Centre.

Vaccination Programme

We are still offering flu vaccinations to patients aged 65 or over, or in an 'at risk group'. If you are aged 65 or over you are entitled to a one-off pneumococcal vaccination. Please contact the surgery for information if you have not had a flu vaccination this year or if you have never had a pneumococcal vaccination.

If you are pregnant, you are entitled to the flu vaccination at any stage in your pregnancy and the whooping cough vaccination from Week 28.

If you were aged 70 or 78 or 79 on 1 September 2014 (born between 2 September 1943 and 1 September 1944 or born between 2 September 1934 and 1 September 1936) you are entitled to the shingles vaccination. Please contact the surgery. This is an ongoing roll-out campaign which will be extended next year.

Extended Hours

We continue to offer GP and Nurse clinics in our extended hours sessions. We now offer GP and Practice Nurse appointments on a Monday evening, and GP appointments on both a Wednesday evening and a Thursday morning.

Managed Repeat Prescription Service

Killearn Pharmacy is running a Managed Repeat Prescription Service, meaning you no longer have to contact the surgery to order your prescriptions. Patients who use and are interested in this service should contact Killearn Pharmacy for details.

Bowel Screening

Bowel cancer is Scotland's third most common cancer. If you are aged 50-74 you will receive a bowel screening kit. We encourage all patients to undertake the test, as early detection makes the cancer much more treatable. If you require a new kit please call 0800 0121 833.

Details of all the above at

www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

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Strathcarron Christmas Fayre

The West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice are organising a Pre-Christmas Fayre in aid of Strathcarron Hospice on:

**Saturday, 15 November, 10am – 3pm
at the McLintock Hall, Balfron.**

There will be lots of stalls, including cards, Christmas decorations, handmade soap, jewellery, wood-turned items, home baking, tombola, a prize draw – and Santa's Grotto!

Tickets are £2.50 each for adults, including tea/coffee and a cake. Accompanied children get in free.

Please come and bring the family, enjoy yourselves and support a deserving cause.

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Colourful Killearn Annual Round-up

The onset of Autumn, as ever, prompts reflection on the year past. For Colourful Killearn this meant raising our profile; raising funds; recruiting new helpers – all necessary activities during this year, on top of our natural cycle. All interlinked and, I'm pleased to say, all successful, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of a small but committed group of our volunteers.

Three Country Markets and a Hoolie provided perfect platforms for mounting photographic displays, gently rattling collecting cans and exchanging home-grown plants for cash donations. Undoubtedly a lot more people in the village now know what Colourful Killearn is and does, with a few even opting to lend a hand. Brilliant! And what we did was:

- ✓ Tubs – spring bulbs and summer bedding, plus plenty of watering in all this warm, dry weather we've enjoyed
- ✓ The village Christmas Tree
- ✓ Emptied, repaired, re-sited and refilled the container outside Spar
- ✓ Spring and autumn work parties at the beds opposite the Co-op
- ✓ Naturalised 400 crocus bulbs under the Village Hall balcony (on a VERY wet day!)
- ✓ Started replacing the bulbs lost in the 'water works' along Main Street verges



And that was our year!

Huge thanks are due to all our fantastic volunteers for the work put into planting and looking after our various containers and beds, along with support from:

Individuals in the village for donations large and small – we couldn't continue without them!

- ✓ Killearn Garage
- ✓ Spar and David MacDonald Butchers for hosting collection tins
- ✓ Oakwood Plant Centre for discounted plants, bulbs and supplies
- ✓ Killearn Country Market for welcoming our photo-display stand
- ✓ MAP Ltd for contributing towards reparation of the Main Street verges
- ✓ The Hoolie for providing ideal weather for a plant stall (*pictured left*)

Come join us! Contact Iain Bowie (550349) or Mike Gray (550962)

MG

Drymen Art Club

As Christmas approaches, Drymen Art Club has arranged a one-day sale of members' work at the Winnock Hotel on Saturday, 6 December from 10.30am until 4.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy a painting for someone special or simply spoil yourself. The members have been producing some lovely work over many months guided by their resident tutor, Bunny Campbell – who trained at Glasgow School of Art. Bunny is a prolific artist in her own right. Visitors will be able to select and buy from the range of styles and topics including local landscapes, birds, animals,

portraits, boats and seascapes, all created by individual artists.

The Art Club is one of Drymen's best-kept secrets! The members – whether novice or expert – paint together in the Village Hall, building their skills and learning from one another. In addition the Club has an extensive library of training DVDs and books on painting which can be borrowed by members. There is a large-screen DVD player for class study on a range of topics to widen and develop members' skills.

The Drymen Art Club is based on the two principles. Firstly, to encourage the

members to do the best they can and to assist them to gain satisfaction from improving each year. Secondly, for the members to enjoy working together over the winter months. Bill Black, the Club President said, 'The highlight of the afternoon is at the tea break when we can look at other member's work, learn new techniques and at the same time have a good natter.' Why not obtain joining details by contacting the secretary, Mike Gastall (01360 660238) or come along to a regular Wednesday afternoon meeting at 1pm in Drymen Village Hall to see what happens and meet the members.

The Weather Channel

The meteorological summer is over and will surely be remembered for a very fine and prolonged spell of warm and often sunny weather.

When summarising such spells of weather conditions, forecasters on the BBC and other channels sometimes refer to the effect of the Jet Stream as a key influence on our weather patterns.

At high levels in the atmosphere strong winds develop as a result of temperature and pressure differences. These winds, known as jet streams, are located at around 30,000ft and can travel as fast as 180mph. They can strengthen and steer low pressure systems. In winter, the jets often shift towards the equator, and in summer they weaken and shift towards the North Pole.

They certainly had an influence on our summer this year! In June and July we had a spell of high pressure and warm, dry conditions. On at least 20 days the temperature in Killearn exceeded 70°F and was often into the 80s. We also had a very dry June, with 17 days totally dry.

As August progressed the Jet Stream moved significantly, and conditions turned cooler and wetter as pressure decreased and westerly air flows arrived.

High pressure returned in September and the easterly air flows ensured what has been the driest Septembers on record.

Normal UK rainfall is around 90mm in September; we had a mere 8.4mm.

Tom Renfrew

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Highest Temp	30.9	30.8	26.4	25.6
Lowest Temp	7.6	9.6	5.7	4.9
Mean Temp (°C)	15.7	17.9	16.8	14.4
Days below 0 (°C)	0	0	0	0
Highest Wind Gust (mph)	13.6	16.8	19.0	21.3
Most Rain in 24hrs (mm)	11.1	13.8	39.9	2.4
Days with no Rain	17	16	10	20
Monthly Rain (mm)	55.5	77	89	8.4
Annual Rain So Far (mm)	852	929	1018	1026

Guild Sale of Work



Don't forget to put this date in your diary:

Saturday, 29 November, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

This is our main fundraising event, and you may already have received a notice which went out to all the households in the village with a list of the different stalls. If you can help in any way, whether by making, donating, helping at one of the stalls or just coming along to put up the tables (and put them down again) and, of course, buy the goodies on sale, we will be delighted to see you.

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*We wish all our readers
a Very Happy Christmas
and a Guid New Year*



Why Yoga? by Chandra Goswami

Yoga is an ancient form of exercise, with new research suggesting that it may be up to 5,000 years old. It has a huge number of benefits, improving physical, mental and emotional health. Here are Chandra Goswami's top reasons why you should start doing yoga today!

1. Stress busting

Stress is a major problem, causing 1 in 5 British employees to suffer from anxiety and depression, and costing the UK £100 billion in lost output. Yoga is one of the most effective methods of stress relief, and recent research supervised by a British University found that a six week programme of weekly Dru Yoga classes reduced anxiety and fatigue, while increasing emotional well-being and resilience to stress.

2. Reduces anxiety

There's now so much research showing how yoga reduces anxiety. It also reduces symptoms of tension – decreasing heart rate, lowering blood pressure, and slowing the breath. Some studies show that yoga helps to increase heart rate variability, an indicator of the body's ability to respond to stress more flexibly.

3. Good for your back

Many believe that rest is best for back pain, whereas in fact, gentle exercise such as Dru Yoga helps to stretch and relax the tight muscles that can cause back pain. In one survey, 72 percent of yoga practitioners found Dru Yoga reduced their back pain. It's important to check that your style of yoga, as strong styles may aggravate your back problem.

4. Increases energy

One of the surprising benefits of yoga is the higher levels

of energy which regular practitioners experience. Breathing techniques such as kapalabhati are especially useful for quickly giving more energy. Slower breathing techniques can relax you deeply to release fatigue and ease the mind.

5. Emotional balance

Yoga can help you feel good, no matter what the weather. True happiness comes from within, and a great yoga class or meditation session is second to none to create that inner joy. A regular practice of yoga can help you to keep emotionally balanced, and ready to face each day with optimism.

6. Banish aches and pains

Dru yoga's gentle movements and stretches are a perfect way to deal with general aches and pains. I've found that a ten-minute daily practice keeps me in good condition and melts away the niggling aches which can build up when I'm working hard. Sequences in Dru which systematically twist, bend and stretch the body, are the ideal practice to soothe away bodily pains.

7. Improved flexibility

If you've had trouble bending or twisting then you'd benefit from yoga's effects of increasing flexibility. Yoga stretches are a gentle way of helping the muscles and joints regain their natural mobility. Those who do sports such as football, climbing or running appreciate the fact that yoga quickly increases flexibility.

8. Feel ageless

Yoga is one of the most effective ways of keeping young, fit and healthy in mind and body, no matter what your age! Naturally tackling all those signs of aging from inside out, it restores the elasticity of the spine and joints, firms the skin, corrects poor posture and brings higher energy levels.

DRU YOGA TRAINING COURSE COMES TO KILLEARN

Are you interested in becoming a yoga teacher or deepening your experience of yoga for personal and professional development?



For the first time we'll be holding the **Dru Yoga training course** in Killearn, and our next recruitment weekend is 22-23rd November 2014.

We've been teaching Dru Yoga for over 35 years, across the world, to all age groups and fitness levels. It is a graceful and potent form of yoga, based on flowing movements, directed breathing and visualisation.

With its foundations set firmly in ancient yogic tradition, Dru works on body, mind and spirit— improving strength, flexibility, core stability and rejuvenating your whole being. It can be practised by people of all abilities.

"Dru Yoga should be available in every G.P. surgery!"

Dr. Hilary Jones
G.P. and TV doctor

We have trained thousands of yoga and meditation teachers and, with hundreds of undergraduates now training, Dru has grown to become one of the largest yoga organisations in the UK.



"The Dru Yoga Teacher training Course was one of the simplest, deepest, and best steps to self-empowerment that I have ever done in my life" **KW, teacher**

Recent scientific research from three medical journals shows that Dru Yoga is effective for reducing stress and back pain, and for preventing injuries. As a result, Dru is now being integrated into schools and hospitals, into businesses and government, and into professional sports.

"If you are looking for the key to athletic success...Dru Yoga is it!"

Pepe Reina
Napoli & Liverpool Football Club

Dru's increasing popularity is due to its effectiveness at relieving the enormous pressures and stresses of modern-day living. You will experience a greater depth of health and wellbeing, regardless of your age, ability or fitness level!

Killearn Village Hall, Balfron Road, Killearn G63 9NL
Next intake 22nd-23rd Nov 2014

For more information contact us:
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The Other Side of the Counter

The time for joy and cheer is nearly upon us. But Christmas, as we know, brings a lot of unexpected ordeals. Paired with the sleigh bells and the delightful fa-la-las must come the never-ending list of chores. Christmas shopping in particular is rarely carried out with ease. In fact, many of us are left dashing to the brightly lit, tinsel-decorated superstores last minute, often resulting in tedious encounters with the shop staff.

The staff, may I add, are human, too. They have families, warm homes to return to, and presents to wrap and place under the tree. I can speak from experience when I assume that they hate being there during the festive period just as much as you do. However, it's their job.

I had the excitement of working behind the counter in an extremely popular ice-cream parlour during the summer. It was everything that a skint teenager could wish for in a part-time job. It was enjoyable for the most part – a free ice cream here and there, a sneaky flake when the boss let his gaze slip and some very delightful groups

of customers. However, every now and then someone not so delightful would come along, and it's difficult to describe them as anything other than a Red Alert. Those of us who are familiar with working behind the counter can spot a bad egg from miles away; yet all we staff can do is wait with baited breath, sweaty palms and frantic stares until one of us must utter the inevitable, 'Can I help? Who's next?' in defeat. Awkward customers are just an everyday part of working within the service industry: for every lovely customer, there will be a horror to follow.

Shops are always busy. At least, that's how I feel. Particularly when public holidays come along, the number of people packing into shops all day is enough to make staff want to run for cover. Looking cool, calm and collected on the outside, staff will remain stationary with gleaming smiles that are aching wide.

Christmas is the holiday that many people seem to anticipate the most. There's always that one person with a tinselled tree in their window mid

October, and the Advent calendars appear so prematurely in the Co-op that they fill you with dread.

The truth is, though, we all love Christmas. Having your nearest and dearest with you makes it all the merrier (especially when one of the older relatives over indulges in the mulled wine). But Christmas can be stressful, too. There will always be pushing and shoving when it comes to buying the perfect Christmas pud, and the best way to handle it is to smile and wait in the queue. If you take it out on the staff, *you* might feel better, but *their* shift is ruined.

So before you trundle out your door, handbag in tow and a face like fizz, spare a little thought about how you treat staff this Christmas. It is, after all, the time of good will to all men (women, children and staff).

And remember: Santa Claus has eyes everywhere.



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LOCAL CHRISTMAS for £10 and

It's good to shop locally at any time of year, but in the stress of town shopping and you bump into friendly businesses. Here's a taste of what's available locally.

Dumgoyne soaps

Dumgoyne soaps, natural soaps without chemicals or colours and beautifully scented, handmade locally, dispenser from £5 available from the market on 6th December or Killearn Pharmacy. Look out for the new range of skin care products.



Get 'Snowman Freezy' and other enchanting gifts and decorations this Christmas
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The Christmas dinner table would be incomplete without festive napkins.

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Wonderland in Balfron

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING and Under

The run-up to Christmas, doing so can do away with
 ads and neighbours, all the while supporting our local
 locally this Christmas, and all for £10 and under.

Edenmill

When you buy a tree from Edenmill
 you can choose from a free £10
 wreath or delivery, or £10 to spend in
 the farm shop in January.



Lavender scented hearts £6 each or
 two for £10, and
 sheep tree decorations at £5...
a sheep's not just for Christmas!

All available from
Needleworx
 at the Country Market
 on 6 December,
 or contact Gwenda (07876 028764).

If ever you need an excuse to eat
 chocolate, then Christmas is it.

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 the Gruffalo, all priced at £5
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 would be lonely without them.



LOCAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING for £10 and Under



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An ideal stocking filler.

KILLEARN'S COUNTRY MARKET



The Bakers & More Hayloft Café *Winter Special*

Chase away the winter chill with a bowl of delicious homemade soup, accompanied by your choice of filled roll or toastie with a side salad, plus a hot or cold drink of your choice for

£4.95



Killearn's Country Market is on 6 December in the Village Hall.

A great local market full of Christmas spirit, food and inspirational gifts, many locally produced.

Musical entertainment from Strathendrick Singers and, of course, tea and cake from the Tennis Club.

*Christmas doesn't get
more local than this!*

KCFC Convenor's Report

A full report was circulated to all members of KCFC and was addressed at the recent AGM.

The working groups have remained active during the past year and continue to follow the company's objectives. Thanks are due to the board members and the chairs of the working groups together with all their members for their continuing commitment to their particular area of interest. This dedication is what puts this company in good heart.

The Killearn Village Hall Operating Committee under Brian Simmers merits a special mention. Running the village hall as a viable and successful operation has moved from part-time overseeing of a small village amenity into 'big business'. Considerable indebtedness is due to Brian and his team for the amount of time and energy they devote to the daily running of this enterprise as well as their commitment to the forward planning and vision for the future expansion of activities and use of the hall. Clearly they are committed to ensure that the wishes of all generations of the community in relation to the use of the village hall are served as fully as possible.

In preparation for the 'Study Space' project, which failed to take-off, a 'Child Protection Policy' was produced in line with Stirling Council's policies to protect children and vulnerable groups and, in furtherance of our commitment in connection with this very important issue, Heather Wright, has been appointed Child Protection officer for KCFC. An 'Acceptable Use Policy' was also produced for those working with the computers in the village hall.

Both training in the field of child protection and in the use of the defibrillator which is attached to the side of the village hall to the left of the front door, can be provided free by Stirling Council. If you are interested in either of these, please contact KCFC for further information.

KCFC has secured an agreement with Killearn Trust to lease a small section of the Glebe close to the hall to allow those attending large social functions access to a small area of grass.

Repairs to the wall bordering the Balfroon Road are currently being undertaken which involves demolishing and rebuilding the part of the wall concerned. KCFC apologises for any inconvenience which may be caused by this essential maintenance.

Work continues on the Community Action Plan. The popular Community 'Get Together' Meeting in May has been followed by the circulation of the questionnaire to all households, businesses and schools. Thanks are given to the volunteers who delivered and collected these and to all who participated by expressing their opinions. **If any completed questionnaires remain, please put these in the letter box at the village hall.** The new plan, when published next year, will form a blueprint for the activities of KCFC over the next decade. You may keep up-to-date with the progress of the plan by visiting our website (www.kcfc.co.uk).

KCFC has, over the past eleven years, achieved many of the aims of the 2003 Action Plan and, with the backing of a supportive community, can look to the future with confidence.

BP October 2014



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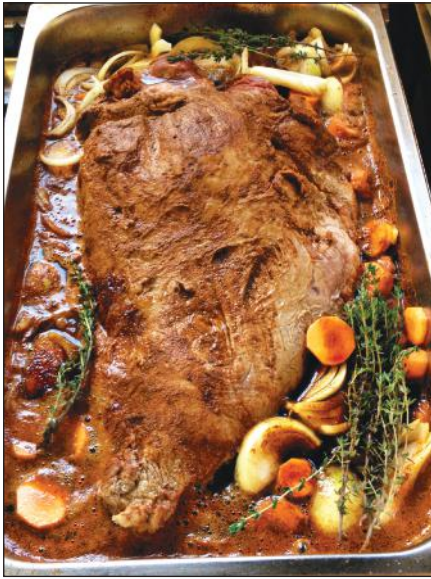
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A Christmas Recipe from *Three Sisters Bake*

Apricot and Bourbon Brisket



Beef brisket is a delicious, tender alternative on Christmas day for non-turkey-loving households. The big flavours and slow cooking will fill your house with a tantalising festive aroma for hours before the meal is served!

Ingredients

2kg piece of beef brisket	3 sticks celery	1 tsp cinnamon
4 tomatoes	1 can of stout	2 tbsp smoked paprika
2 onions	thyme	1 tbsp salt
3 carrots	4 cloves garlic	1 tbsp pepper
3 tbsp good quality apricot jam	50ml bourbon	1 pint beef stock

Method

Heat oven to 240°C (gas mark 9). Combine smoked paprika, salt, pepper and cinnamon. Rub all over brisket. Place chopped onion, celery and carrot on a deep tray. Lay brisket on top and roast for 40 minutes. Add remaining ingredients, and cover tightly with tinfoil. Cook for four hours at 160°C (gas mark 3).

Remove brisket from pan. Pass the cooking liquid through a fine sieve. Reduce liquid until thickened, pour over brisket then carve against the grain.

Killlearn Toddlers Group



EVERY WEDNESDAY

**9.30am – 11.30am
(Come anytime)**

The Kirk Hall, Off Balfroon Road

**(0-4 years), Parents, Nannies, Grandparents,
Carers, Childminders etc. all welcome**

**Facebook: - Killlearn Parents & Toddlers Group
Contact Angela on 07733224598 / Ashleigh 07747633652**

May we introduce ourselves? We are Ashleigh McMillan and Angela Docherty, and we have now taken over as the new Leaders of Killlearn Baby and Toddlers Group until this time next year. We are both mothers of two and have lived in the village for five years. Our kids have in the past or are now attending toddlers, and we all enjoy coming along to play and let our children interact with all the other kids while we have a lovely cup of tea.

We want to keep Toddlers going and make it as fun as possible for toddlers, babies, mums, dads, grandparents, childminders and anyone else that comes along.

Toddlers runs all year long in the Kirk Hall, every Wednesday from 9.30–11.30am, unless the hall is being used for a church function or out of action. If this is the case, we will email you to let you know, as well as putting a note on the Facebook page for Killlearn Parent and Toddlers Group. We have a few new ideas that we are working on at the moment, but would invite all new ideas with open arms.

You can chat with us on Wednesdays, or contact:

Angela (07733 224598) or Ashleigh (07747 633652).

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Killlearn Kirk, 7.30pm**

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Looking on the Bright Side

Have you noticed how much bright stuff there is going on these days? For a start, we've had the brightest and longest summer anyone can remember. Day after day of sunshine, with just enough modest precipitation to keep the flowers from dying off. Then along came the start of autumn, and the brightness carried right on. The whole of September was a golden month, with not a hint of equinoctial gales. People were still going around without jackets! As I write, the sun is hitting the leaves of the horse chestnut in the garden, giving them a sharp golden yellow edge. You almost need sunglasses to look at them. Makes you feel good.

It's particularly heartening also to see those six little houses beside the telephone exchange finally finished and occupied. It hadn't occurred to me that they would be so attractive to look at, but they are, aren't they? One resident lost no time before stacking the front garden with pots of flowers and plants, which transformed what was bound to be a fairly bland space into something really pretty. I find myself smiling as I walk past.

And have you looked at the church recently? Not only has the outside



been lightened significantly, showing it to be the handsome building we always knew it was, but also the inside has changed dramatically. We took a visiting friend in to see it recently, and to begin with, it was so sunny outside that the interior looked pretty dim 'til one's eyes got adjusted. But then the new carpet picked up the light from the windows and shone up at us. And the new space in the chancel – well, it's ever so grand. You could put on a Nativity Play in there, with room for all the animals in the stable, not to mention the entire heavenly chorus and a bunch of shepherds. There will certainly be bags of room for the Christmas tree. Very cheering to look forward to.

And then there's the reincarnated Co-op. For those of us who can remember when the entire shop was housed in

what is now the store room and bakery, there seem to have been several revamps along the way. There was the initial extension, magnificent in comparison to the dark cramped space we had been used to. Since then, the check-outs have moved at least three times, and what was an entire butcher's counter, manned by Sheila, became the chill and freezer cabinets. Now it's all change again! At the time of writing, it is DAY ONE of the new dispensation, and excitement is rife in the village. There was a fear that, in the interests of getting in as much stock as possible, the chatting area we so enjoyed in the old shop would have disappeared, but it hasn't. There is a lovely space just inside the street door, which will allow for meeting and greeting as well as the check-out queue. But there is another one down by the booze counters. It is technically the same space as before, without the draught. So conversational encounters will continue.

Not only has the village brightened, but we are now looking forward to one of the cheeriest times of the year. Happy Christmas everyone, when it comes!

Joyce Begg

Older People's Reference Group Needs YOU!

Working to improve the quality of life of older people in the Stirling area, the Older People's Reference Group needs new members who are over 50 and interested in having a say on the issues affecting older people in communities. The group are consulted on issues which are especially important, given the current changes to social care and health.

Anyone over 50 and living in the Stirling Council area can join, and the group is especially interested in members from the rural area. Meetings are four times a year and areas of interest include Older People's Care, Housing, Transport and Community Safety.

The group is supported by Stirling Council.



For more information, contact:
the clerk to the group:
Claire McDonald,
Committee Support Officer, Democratic Support
Tel.: 01786 233077.

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1st Killearn

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation which cares for and challenges young people for life through a programme of informal education in a fun way. 1st Killearn Boys Brigade have served the Church and Community of Killearn for 61 years with many dedicated leaders helping over this period. The BBs have been involved in many village projects, fête days and charitable activities. We now find ourselves in the position where we need more adult volunteers to come forward and offer their time, talents and assistance to enable the continuation of the Company which caters for boys ranging in ages from 5 years to 18 years.

Volunteering in the Boys' Brigade gives children and young people opportunities and experiences beyond what is possible in school or at home. At BB's the children and young people get involved in a huge range of exciting activities and adventures, from learning new skills, such as first aid or juggling, to fantastic adventures, including trying out activities like kayaking, climbing, high ropes courses and more.

The BB will provide volunteers with training opportunities to build on existing skills as well as support guidance for the role.

We need your help to allow more children and young people to experience the opportunities and adventures that the BB has to offer.

If you feel that you would be able to assist and would be willing to help then please get in touch with Jim Fallas (550618) or Carole Young (550994) to discuss the opportunities of becoming a leader.

A meeting was held in Killearn Kirk Halls on Thursday, 30th October 2014 to which interested parties were invited. Please contact:

Carole Young or Jim Fallas for the outcome of this meeting.
 (Email: sessionclerk@killearnkirk.org.uk).

For more information on the Boys Brigade visit their website:
<http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk/>.



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KILLEARN PHARMACY – TUESDAY, 9 am - 1 pm
 OLD SURGERY, BUCHLYVIE – TUESDAY, 2 pm - 5 pm

App of the Issue: Spotify®



Spotify is one of my favourite apps. The idea that you can have all the music in the world instantly at your fingertips is revolutionary. Whether you want to relive the music of a generation, create the perfect playlist for a special occasion

or browse through thousands of ready-made playlists, Spotify is a gold mine.

The best part, however, is that it's absolutely free! No strings attached.

There is a diverse collection of music there ready for you to discover. I can guarantee that this app will amaze you.

Spotify can be found in the App Store and is available for download on all devices.

Recommended playlists:

- ✕ Jukebox Boogie: Rhythm and Blues
- ✕ The Stress Buster
- ✕ Classical Essentials
- ✕ Cocktail Jazz

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Emma's Gift

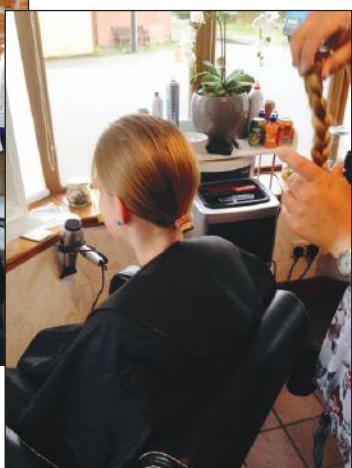
Emma Farren had been growing and preparing her hair for a while to get it long enough to donate to The Little Princess Trust, where it would be made into a wig for a child who had lost their hair due to illness, usually cancer. She asked for donations to Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres to encourage her to take the big step to getting her hair cut short. Local hairdresser Debbie McLeod very kindly offered to do the cut. The long and short of it? At the beginning of August, Emma had nearly 11 inches of hair cut and donated to The Little Princess Trust, while raising £795 for Maggie's (£981, including Gift Aid). Recently she found out that she has inspired others to do the same. Her dream is to hit the £1,000.

Donations can still be made to
www.justgiving.com/Emma-Farren1
 or text EBHC99 £5 to 70070.

To learn about The Little Princess Trust go to
www.littleprincesses.org.uk.



Before (pictured left)



After (pictured right)

Blane Valley Inn

Blanefield's Blane Valley Inn has a new man pulling the pints. Jamie Wray has taken over the tenancy of this traditional Belhaven Brewery pub and has refurbished the interior and beer garden to create a cheerful family friendly atmosphere. The Inn serves the Glasgow-based West Brewery's St Mungo lager which is promoted as being perfect with food, ideal to accompany the new full menu that Jamie and his chef have devised. An in-house smoker ensures a daily 'smoked special' is on the menu.

Jamie, from Lennoxton, has been in the hospitality business for 26 years and with this experience, and his cheerful enthusiasm, says he will be at the Blane Valley Inn for the long haul. He welcomes folk from Killearn popping in when passing and suggests that walkers of the pipe track from Killearn to Blanefield make it part of their walk to stop for coffee or lunch at the Inn. Large parties are very welcome, but he recommends phoning in advance.

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Reflections on the Friendly Games . . .

What a year 2014 has been for Scotland: the Commonwealth Games, the Independence Referendum and the Ryder Cup to name just three highlights! So, how did our Clydesider volunteers – featured in the Spring 2014 edition of the *Courier* – fare at Glasgow 2014?

Flora Matthews (*pictured right*) was a volunteer at the Emirates Arena, for both the badminton and the track cycling events. Her role was working for the Press Operations Team, where she helped communicate results between the judges and the media. She also coordinated where the media were positioned to ensure they caught the best action. Flora says, 'My role wasn't always busy, so when it was quiet, I took the opportunity to use the access my pass gave me. The best place to chill was definitely the Media Centre as, more often than not, you would catch sight of Victoria Pendleton or Sir Chris Hoy sipping coffee or doing interviews.'



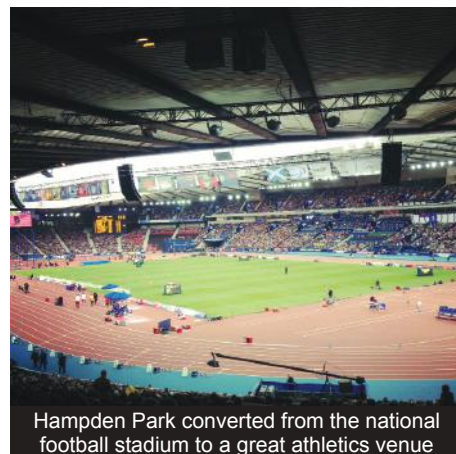
Flora continues, 'However, despite being in the same room as my biggest idols, my favourite part of the Games by far, was my uniform! I must have spent the majority of my train journeys in and out from my shifts being approached by members of the public and other Clydesiders. It was amazing to see how many people were interested in what I was doing! My uniform even landed me with the role of leading the Pakistani weight lifting team back to the Athletes' Village. So thanks Commonwealth Games for providing me with the awesome experience of being a volunteer at Glasgow 2014.'



Jane Hunter (*pictured left*) thoroughly enjoyed being a volunteer at Scotstoun. 'It was an exciting, fun, friendly and a uniquely memorable experience meeting interesting people from different backgrounds.' Her favourite moments of the Games were watching Usain Bolt in action in the 4 x 400m men's relay: 'the atmosphere

was incredible and the roar of the crowd unbelievable. But watching my nephew run for Scotland in the marathon was a special personal memory.'

Gill and Graeme Fraser were both 'Clydesider' drivers, taking Games Family officials, delegates and personalities to the various venues in and around Glasgow. They found it a great experience and much fun due to the craic



Hampden Park converted from the national football stadium to a great athletics venue

enjoyed with passengers and fellow volunteers. There was the delegation from Edmonton who were to be dropped off at 'Canada House' which – for the duration of the Games – turned out to be the Bacchus Pub! And the senior delegate from the Cook Islands staying at the Hilton, who was delighted and amazed to find Will and Kate sharing breakfast in a totally relaxed manner with the rest of the guests!

Gill reports, 'Glasgow was in carnival mood, helped by the lovely weather, and we had never seen the city looking better (with special note for the fantastic work of the Parks Department); the co-operation of other drivers was appreciably more patient and accommodating than is normal. There were smiles on everyone's faces and even a song, dance and great chat from the helpful and friendly police.'

Trisha Scott (*pictured right*) says that being a volunteer at the Commonwealth Games was one of the best experiences in her life. She was fortunate to be part of the BP Young Leaders programme, and spent ten days staying away from home with a great bunch of youngsters from all over Scotland. They were mentored by Scottish athletes who organised activities for the volunteers when they were off



Mark Chapman with audience members of *Tonight at the Games*, the BBC One highlights programme

Matt Baker and Alex Jones present *The One Show* from outside Pacific Quay

... How was it for you?



duty. ‘One of the highlights for me was when the judo athletes showed us their gold and bronze medals. The medals were heavier than I expected.’

Trisha (*pictured pointing the way*) was volunteering within Spectator Services at Hampden Park, which meant very long shifts. But she says that everyone was so happy that the hours just flew by. She was lucky enough to be on duty when Usain Bolt was running. ‘My favourite job was pointing the green hand to

show people where to go.’

Lennie Lindsay’s role (*pictured right*) was in Spectator Services at Kelvingrove Lawn Bowls. ‘It was a great experience playing a part in such a huge event which showed Glasgow at its best, and despite the 5.45am starts, I was lucky to be based at an iconic outdoor venue.’



And what about the rest of us? What were our favourite moments of the Games? For Rosalie Williamson, the best bit was the crowd atmosphere and the support the crowd gave every competitor. For Morven Paterson, the best moment

was when Ross Murdoch (originally from Balforn) won the gold in the breaststroke final.

Nick Hawkins works at the BBC. ‘It was tremendous to see the BBC Scotland HQ at Pacific Quay being used in new, imaginative ways. Gary Lineker and Hazel Irvine presented from a temporary studio looking out across the Clyde towards the Finnieston Crane and the Hydro, creating an iconic view. BBC at the Quay hosted 16 days of radio and television programmes on Millennium Square as one of the Glasgow Live Sites, and Tonight at the Games – broadcast live on BBC One each evening from the reception area of PQ – proved hugely popular, with Clare Baldwin and Mark Chapman presenting a mixture of Games news and entertainment.’

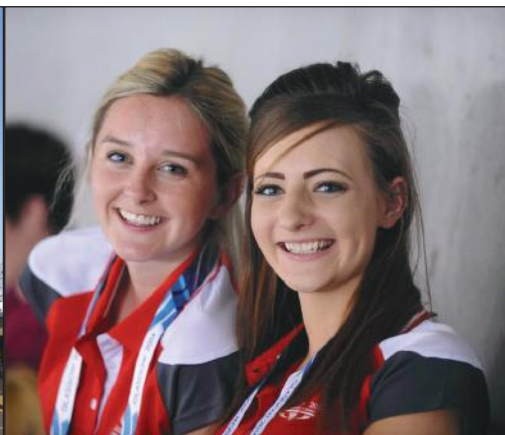
Gwen Stewart’s favourite moment was the Monday morning at Hampden when a Nigerian para-athlete, a one-legged discus thrower, won the bronze medal and did a lap of honour on his crutches ‘His sheer joy was shared by the entire stadium – he could have been Usain Bolt.’ The other big moment for her was ‘having our children (*pictured below*) with us at the athletics, experiencing both the event and the atmosphere together; sharing the pride in such an amazing event taking place in our home city.’

Great moments, from a great event, in a great place.

NH



Glasgow welcomes the Games



‘Clydesiders’ – Flora Matthews and friend



Fireworks at Pacific Quay

© Sean Purser



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Tennis Club News

The summer of 2014 has been another busy and successful season at Killearn Tennis Club with many members on court taking advantage of the great weather. As the Summer Leagues finished, the Club Championship matches began and the Committee started hatching plans for some charity fun-raising events.

The Killearn Tennis Club 'Tennisathon' took place on Sunday, 7 September. This involved 12 hours of tennis – from 8 in the morning until 8 at night. Over 20 members took part in this sponsored event which raised money for the British Heart Foundation and Pancreatic Cancer UK. Being blessed with fine weather, all the players enjoyed the day of tennis. The grand sum of £2,123.54 was raised. The Committee would like to thank those

who took part and gave generously, not forgetting Jan Biggart for organising the matches.

The Tennis Club also supported McMillan Nurses (pictured right), with the proceeds of the October Country Market tea room being donated to this charity. The total raised on the day was £265.13. As always, the cakes baked by the members were delicious. If you missed out this month, do come along next month as the Country Market relies on the support of the village for its survival.

While some of the Club Championship finals have still to be played, the following results can be announced: the Ladies Doubles champions are Jan Biggart and Shirley Bell, and the Gents Doubles winners are David Fulton and Gavin Hutchison.

The Club is currently trying to develop a pool



of players for a new Gents Team next season. David Fulton would like to encourage male players to attend on a Thursday night from 7pm to take part in training sessions during the winter in preparation for team play in Spring. If you are interested in joining this, please contact David (550011).

Despite the nights drawing in, the courts are still available for play. Coaching is continuing through the winter and Autumn League matches are being played against other clubs within the Stirling area.

For membership information please contact Elaine Henderson:

Elaine_hen11@hotmail.com or
www.killearntennisclub.org.uk



Rugby Round Up – Autumn 2014

The whole of Scottish rugby was delighted at the public response to the Rugby Sevens at the Commonwealth Games. Ibrox proved to be a fine venue, and huge crowds made it the best attended Sevens tournament ever! The party atmosphere and the unequivocal support for the underdog were truly memorable. Led by local boy Colin 'Budgie' Gregor, the Scottish squad did their country proud. We all hope the national 15-a-side team will do well in the Autumn Internationals, with the World Cup just around the corner in 2015.

In the professional game, Glasgow Warriors are having another great season, leading the Guinness Pro 12 league as we go to press. This success and their entertaining brand of rugby is helping to build large, enthusiastic audiences, especially at Scotstoun.

More locally, Strathendrick RFC is also enjoying a renaissance. Having had a really difficult season last year the 1st XV is rebuilding under the leadership of Ritchie



Bruce and the coaching of Dave Barrett. Bright young players have been recruited and results have been much more encouraging than last time round.

In the Youth section, the U16s are run jointly between the Club and Balfour High and coach Gary Heron has led an U16 squad into the regional leagues for the first time for many years. Although the fixtures are

challenging, the squad will develop over time. The S1/2s, however, are now well established and are enjoying playing some really good rugby. Despite not being the biggest of teams, their technique and pace is impressive and augurs well for the future.

At Mini level, the Fintry Club is also in rude health with good numbers of both players and coaches in most age groups. The Club enjoys tournaments and training and will again be planning tours in the Spring: a hugely popular introduction in recent years.

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc>

NH

Curling – First Stones

The new curling season for Strathendrick Curling Club got underway in September for both the main club and the Ladies Section.

The main club started their season with the traditional President v Vice President bonspiel. This year, there was a win for the Vice President, Donnie MacDonald, over the President, Sheila Sturrock, by a score of 21 ends to 19. The bonspiel was followed by a buffet at the Glasses' house.

This year we are playing an eight-team league up to Christmas and a seven-team league after Christmas. All matches will take place on Tuesdays; mainly in the afternoon. We have been joined this season by Keith Hyam from Blane, Ian Lamont from Drymen, John Shaftoe from Balfron and Jean Verrall from Stirling. Jim Smith is also returning as a playing member.

The Ladies Section had to cancel their proposed practice session due to a Ladies' training day organised by the Stirling Area. A few of us went to that and, hopefully, will improve our technique. The Ladies Section played their Opening Bonspiel at The Peak with four teams. The winners were Rita Barth's team with Rita Harris, Elspeth Murdoch and Anne Lang who won five ends. The runners-up were Betty Meikle's team with Lorna Craigie, Pauline Holden and Norma Thornton, who won four ends.

The Ladies are playing a five-team double Round Robin on Thursday mornings up to the start of January and a five-team single league from January to March. We have two new members this year: Moyra Pepper from Killearn and Heather Burns from Callander. We look forward to making them welcome.

The Club will be involved in the usual Province games against other local clubs and in October we play in the Balyarrow Trophy at Greenacres, against the four other clubs founded in 1846.



Club Members at the Barbecue

In May, some members of the club competed in a bowling match against Balfron Curling Club. Unfortunately, rain stopped play after about two ends, but the 30 people who attended enjoyed the game and the following tea.

Helen and Allan Watson hosted a barbecue at their house in July. It was a lovely day and over 40 people attended, including an intrepid pair who walked there

from Killearn. Donnie MacDonald and Ronnie Myles were the chefs on this occasion.

At the end of August, we had our annual Texas scramble and general knowledge quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The weather was good and we managed six teams of four for the golf. The winners were Norman Robertson, Jim Smith, Allan Watson and Mike Jackson. We had a few extra people for the supper and quiz, which was won by John and Jean Anderson, Betty Meikle, John and Anne O'Neill and Gillian Kingslake.

Some of our Ladies Section were guests at the West Stirlingshire Ladies Curling Club outing at Comrie Golf Club. The weather was fine, the course was very attractive. While some ladies enjoyed the golf more than others, all enjoyed the following high tea.

We really would like to recruit some new members to the club to keep the competitions competitive. The club is very friendly and sociable, and please do not be put off by the expert play that you see in the Olympics – we can rarely produce shots like that! It's also much better exercise than you expect and certainly makes sure the winter passes quickly.

If you would like to have a go at curling contact Donnie MacDonald (01389 860442) or Gill Smith (550726) or look at our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

GS

Killearn Football Club News

Despite not actually winning any silverware, the team have just completed their best season for many years, finishing runners-up in the Leslie League, and contesting the final stages of three cup competitions.

The 22 games played in the League resulted in winning 13, drawing 5 and losing 4 for a total of 44 points, to finish in second place behind Drymen Utd, winners on 52 points. Three of the defeats were during the holiday period, when the absence of key players led to the loss of 17 goals while only managing to score 3 times. Those results badly affected the Club's goal difference for the season: scoring 52 times and conceding 34 being the total count.

As reported in the Summer *Courier*, the team had reached the semi-final of both the McGregor-Fergusson and Margaret White cups, but had lost both games, the players

were determined to do better in the Association's major trophy, the Cameron Cup. After a bye in Round 1, the side played Gartocharn away in Round 2 and produced their best performance of the season, winning 4–1. In the semi-final played at Drymen against Buchlyvie Utd it took a late double substitution from the team managers to turn a defeat into a 3–2 victory. The final, played at Balfron against a very strong Drymen team, ended in a 4–0 defeat. Despite having the best of the first half, the absence of the Club's two top scorers through injury and suspension was a major factor in the final result.

The Club would like to thank all who came along to support the team during the season. This was greatly appreciated by all the players.

DB

Some Biking Weekend!

In late August I competed in the Scottish National Track Championships. I took to the boards to compete in four events over two days. The 500m Time Trial, the sprint, the individual pursuit (3km time trial) and the points race. The 500m time trial is a very short and fast race. You compete individually and sprint as fast as you can. I waited for the countdown: '5, 4, 3, 2, 1' bang! I had a good start and gave it my all. I finished, breathing so heavily I probably sucked up all the air in the velodrome. It was a long and nervous wait for the result. 'And the 2014 Scottish 500m TT champion is Lewis Stewart!' I was overjoyed to have won, but I knew I had to maintain my focus as I was racing later in the sprint.



with the most points at the end wins. I won two sprints, and got a second and a third out of the four. It was enough to take the win. I was very surprised to win, and even more surprised to have won every event.

Overall this was a great achievement for me and a good experience. I hope to defend my titles next year. The next race I will compete in is the Sainsbury's School Games where I will race for Scotland. When I compete nationally (Britain), I need specialised equipment which is very expensive. I was lucky

enough to get a grant from a local charitable trust to be able to buy this equipment.

Lewis Stewart



day and I couldn't wait for tomorrow.

The first event of the second day was the individual pursuit. This is similar to the 500m TT but it's over 3k. I finished with the fastest time in the qualifier and would be in the gold medal ride off. I got to the line and the count down started. Throughout the whole race my competitor was a quarter of a lap ahead of me until, in the final 750m, I pulled it back and won by 0.1 second. I was so dead that I collapsed to the ground and the medics ran over to check if I was okay. I was so happy to win another Scottish Championship.

The final race was the points race. This race is a set distance and every so many laps there is a sprint where points – 5, 3, 2 or 1 – are awarded to the top four every sprint. The rider

After that, I was raring to go. The sprint is made up of knock-out rounds until the semi-final and final, where it is best of three – you race over three laps and first across the line wins. The first event in the sprint is the flying 200m TT which is used to seed you for the sprint rounds. I qualified in second place. I got through the first round and proceeded through the rounds to get to the final. I was against Grant Martin, who finished second in the 500m TT earlier. We rolled round the track playing cat and mouse. Then Grant went! I followed his wheel quickly, and unbelievably he swung side-to-side in his attack so much he flipped over the bike. I just managed to dodge the crash and the air-borne bike just caught my right hand. I rolled across the line to take the win. Grant suffered some bad injuries, but did start the second sprint, although we did not contest it. I was crowned the 2014 Scottish Sprint Champion. Not in the way I wished, but nevertheless... It was a successful

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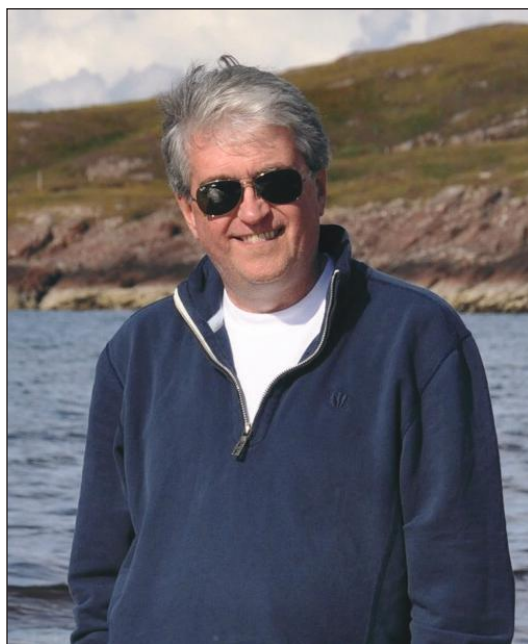
Tom Muldowney 1952 – 2014

Tom Muldowney was born and brought up in Airdrie where he enjoyed an idyllic childhood.

On completing his education at St Patrick's High School, Coatbridge, Tom went on to university, qualifying as a primary school teacher and taking his first teaching post at St James's Primary School, Coatbridge. During this time, the opportunity arose for him to specialise in deaf and blind education. He studied at Moray House College, Edinburgh, gaining a qualification as a teacher of the deaf.

Tom went on to teach at Craighead School for the Deaf in Hamilton before being appointed Senior Lecturer in Sensory Impairment at Motherwell College. It was here that Tom really found his niche. He was passionate about his work, and took great pleasure and satisfaction from seeing the difference he made to the lives of those he taught. He spent the next 14 years working in this position as well as teaching sign language at evening classes.

By this time Tom was training rehabilitation workers for the blind and became involved with Guide Dogs for the Blind. The passion Tom had for his job shone through, and he was appointed Head of School of Vision and Rehabilitation



Studies with Guide Dogs, where he spent the next 18 years before retiring, age 60. So not only did Tom find his niche, he developed it, nurtured it and made a real difference to the lives of many people.

Tom met his wife Kath at Airdrie Arts Guild Drama Club, going on to marry and to spend a wonderful and truly amazing 36 years together. They enjoyed many get-togethers with family and friends, enjoying good company, food and wine, as well as travelling together.

Tom and Kath moved to Killearn in 1997. They settled into the life of the village enjoying everything it has to offer. They were members of

Killearn Growers and Get Reel. Tom was also a keen golfer and enjoyed many a day on the course at Balfron.

Tom died suddenly and unexpectedly on 19 August at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank. He made everyone he came into contact with feel special and he brought out the best in them. He was loved, cherished and treasured by his family, many friends and those he taught, and they feel honoured and blessed to have known him. His death will leave an empty feeling in all of them, no more so than in the heart of his soul mate, Kath.

Rose Brown 1917 – 2014

Rose Brown of Graham Road was born in 1917 in Co. Durham, one of six children and from an early age worked supporting her parents' hairdressing business, preparing men for their shaves and haircuts and washing all the towels by hand.

When her education was finished, she moved to Leamington Spa to begin a career in nursing, and it was here that she met her future husband, David. In 1942, they moved to Killearn and here their six children were born. It was a happy family but times were difficult, and Rose had to work hard to raise her family, for many years on her own. She worked in the houses of Mrs Shand and Mrs Pollock, and also was a nursing auxiliary at Killearn Hospital until it closed, at which time Rose moved to Gartnavel.

She was an excellent homemaker, being a good organiser, a great cook and skilful with her hands, which were frequently



occupied sewing, knitting and stitching tapestries. She was a highly independent lady who did not like to ask for help, but was generous in the help she gave to others. She was forthright and honest in her opinions, but also had a great sense of humour, characterised by the twinkle in her eye, the smile on her face and the chuckle in her throat.

Always a great supporter of the Kirk and the Guild, as she grew older she was a popular member of the Thursday Club, where she loved the company and the card games. She also enjoyed group outings to the seaside and local beauty spots.

But it was her family around whom her life was centred. In her 98th year and with six children and their partners, thirteen grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren and ten great great grandchildren, she was the proud and loving head of large clan, by whom, and by her friends and neighbours, she will be greatly missed.

Laura Leven 1969 – 2014

Laura Leven died early this autumn at the early age of 45. She spent her childhood years in Glasgow and was educated at Shawlands Academy and then Anniesland College. As a youngster she was an enthusiastic Girl Guide and gained her Queen's Guide Award, the highest attainable award in Guiding. She worked in Customer Services at Britannia Building Society and then gained a manager's post at Leeds & Holbeck Building Society. In 1992, she married Stuart, and they set up home in Newton Mearns. Four years later they moved to Killearn, and in that year she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Despite this, in 1999, Laura gave birth to twin boys, Fraser and Ross, who were to bring her so much joy and hope. Unfortunately, Laura and Stuart separated in 2001, leaving Laura to bring up the boys on her own with the help of her mum and Allan.



The journey through MS was one that was challenging in every way, but Laura's courage and fortitude was to prove exemplary and an inspiration to those who surrounded her with love and encouragement. Her mother, Eilidh, and father, Hugh, always provided a caring and safe

environment during her childhood and their support helped her to create this same positive atmosphere for her boys. Her home was always open and welcoming; she never complained, accepting the blow that life had dealt her with the observation that these things happen to people and habitually responding to enquiry that she was fine.

She pursued her hobbies and interest whenever it was possible. She was an avid supporter of Celtic FC, and was visited by their manager Gordon Strachan; she loved the music of Robbie Williams and attended one of his concerts at Hampden Park; she had a passion for elephants and had a collection of soft cuddly toys and prints of these creatures. As the illness progressed, her wider family, professional carers and many friends all provided the support she needed. Her devotion to her boys and their care for her was the centre of her life. Her gentle spirit and her fun loving and caring nature endeared her to those who ministered to her. To the end she remained an inspiration to those who surrounded her.

LM/BP

We at the *Courier* have been publishing obituaries of residents in the parish more or less since we started some ten years ago. We understand that they have always been appreciated by our readers. However, with the best will in the world, we sometimes don't publish an obituary for a variety of reasons. It can be as simple as the family not wishing us to publish or the fact that the news hasn't filtered to anyone on the *Courier* team. Being a community newspaper, it's our aim to provide information to our readers, and sometimes it is difficult for us to be as aware of everything that is happening as we might need to be. We would never want to intrude on a family's grief at such a difficult time, and the decision to offer an obituary is entirely in the family's hands. For this reason, it would be of great assistance if the family could contact us to organise a notice or obituary in the *Courier*. If you do want to record the passing of a loved one, please contact us at:

courier@kfc.co.uk or phone Brenda Pell (550328).

On the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1914–1918 war, we remember those who gave their lives in that war.

Walter Aitken	Hugh McCallum
George Battison	Peter McCallum
Robert Carr	Archibald McLaren
Alec Dobbie	John McLean
William Edmondstone	William McLean
Walter Fairlie	Kenneth Miller
Peter Gordon	William Morrison
William Jenkinson	Ernest Orr-Ewing
John Johnstone	William Paterson
Henry Lamont	John Sanderson
Hugh Lennie	John Scott
Thomas Mackie	Herbert Sporton
David Marshall	James Valentine
Andrew Marshall	David Wilson

INTIMATIONS

The *Courier* has learned of the deaths of these residents of Killearn:

Jimmy Brown of Buchanan Road

Thomas Hutchison, formerly of Napier Road, and an elder of Killearn Kirk

Hugh C. Rae, writer, of Gartness Road. A full obituary for Hugh was recently published in the Herald and the Scotsman

Eileen Scott of Alder Road

Jamie Pearson

Independent Funeral Directors

Fintry Manse, Kippen Road, Fintry

01360 860 345

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



Woodland Burial

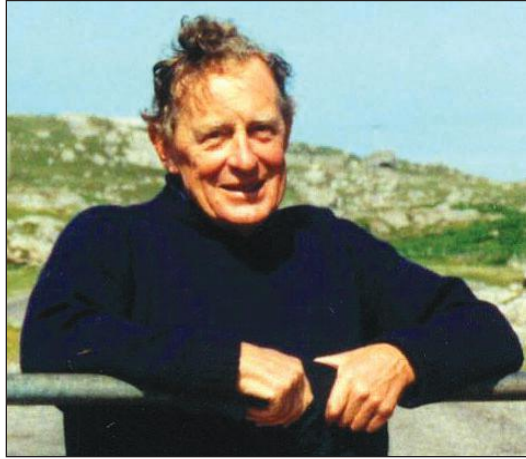
Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



Bonar Graeme Hardie 1925 – 2014

Bonar Hardie was brought up in Glasgow and educated at Kelvinside Academy and Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh. In 1942, at the age of 17 he entered the Royal Navy, in which he served for the duration of World War II. In 1945 he went to St. Andrews University to read chemistry, later joining the family firm of J&G Hardie who were agents for the rubber and plastic industries. He gained experience in the business before taking on the responsibility for sales and marketing, travelling a great deal in this capacity. He was a member of the Trades House of Glasgow, becoming Deacon of the Bakers, and later served for two years as the Lord Dean of Guild of the Merchants House.

Outside his working interests, one of his great passions was for sailing. He was a member of the British sailing team of the 1948 Olympics, sailing in the six-metre craft, *Johan*, which ended ranked in a creditable fourth place.



It was through sailing that he met his future bride, Sheina. They were married in 1951, living first in Glasgow and later in The Clock House on Loch Lomondside. A son and two daughters were born and the family enjoyed many happy times on and around the waters of Loch Lomond and also on the island of Inchlonaig which they rented from the Luss Estates. Bonar loved all outdoor sports – stalking, shooting and fishing – always accompanied by a dog at his heels.

In 1993, he and Sheina retired to Killearn, where he would often be seen walking with his beloved lab-retriever, Gigha.

A generous natured, kindly and fair man, he was well liked by all who knew him and much loved by his family. He will be greatly missed by Sheina, his three children, Graeme, Anne and Cathy and by his eight grandchildren, of whom he was very proud.

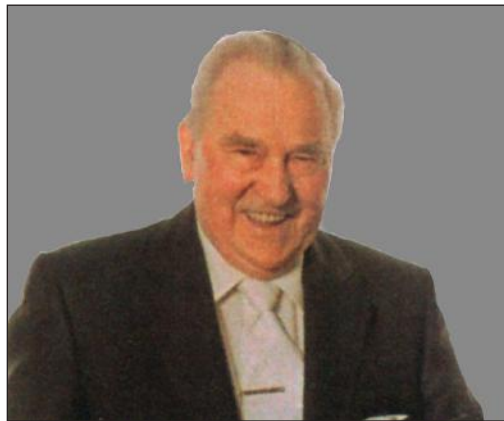
BP

Kenneth Kendall 1922 – 2014

Kenneth Kendall was born Kazimir Jan Kubicki in north-western Poland, the oldest of a family of six, to Wladyslaw, a civil engineer, and Josefa, a teacher. He enjoyed a traditional and comfortable childhood and received part of his schooling at a seminary in the hope he would train for the priesthood. This was not to be for him, and he completed his education at secondary school and then at a technical college in what is now Vilnius, capital of Lithuania.

In 1939, he was at a Scout camp close to the Ukrainian border when war broke out and, for safety, he was sent by the scoutmaster to an uncle, a local police chief, who lived nearby. As the Russians invaded their country, escape from the area was necessary. They set off towards Romania, but were arrested by the Ukrainian police and deported to Soviet Russia and on to Siberia. The uncle did not survive the journey, but the young Kazimir was interred in a gulag near Novosibirsk where he was part of the forced labour constructing a railway. Conditions were harsh but he survived – just.

In 1941, at the outbreak of German-Soviet hostilities, he was released and with thousands of other displaced Poles, little food and inadequate clothing, walked to volunteer for the Polish army. It was a journey of over 3,000 miles through the borderlands of Eastern Europe and Asia to Iran where he finally joined the Polish army in 1942. He trained and saw service in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Sicily and Italy, serving with the Carpathian Brigade at Monte Cassino. Later, after



training at Inverlochy Castle with the SOE, he was a part of Operation Market Garden in Arnhem, as a member of the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade.

At the end of the war Ken had survived, but had lost his family and his homeland. The Russians had occupied Poland and a return to his own country was impossible as he was named a political enemy of the Soviet Union. He was posted

to Scotland and in 1947, before being de-mobbed, was transferred to the Polish Resettlement Corps. Scotland became his refuge, his place of work and, on his marriage to Billie, his home. After training as a mechanical engineer, he worked for several companies before becoming MD of a spring making firm in Glasgow. He worked hard, loved a challenge and was known affectionately as 'Mr. Fix-it'. He spoke five languages, enjoyed dancing and was an expert skater.

His marriage of 62 years was one of mutual devotion, ending with Billie's death last year. He was a loving father of their two sons and was hugely proud of his five grandchildren.

The experiences of his early life, his several brushes with death, his Christian faith, Freemasonry and the love of his family all contributed to his own qualities of fortitude, a capacity for hard work and a generosity to his fellow man. He came, with Billie, to live in retirement in Killearn where he soon became a well known and popular member of the community, greeting all he met with characteristic graciousness and a beaming smile.

JK/BP

John Pritchard 1920 – 2014

John Pritchard, known to many as Johnny or JP, was born in Airdrie, the youngest of a family of five. His father was an iron puddler – puddling was a process in the production of high-grade iron. John had childhood memories of having to beg for money to buy bread, and of running errands for neighbours in return for pennies. In childhood, he had a serious bicycle accident when he fell on tramlines; his injuries left him unable to read and write, but he had an inquisitive mind and learned to find out things for himself. He was also attracted to machinery tools and developed his manual skills in repairing garden and farming implements.



He started working on farms in this area around the age of 14, sleeping in a dormitory with other young labourers. He moved around, going wherever work for a farm labourer was available and turning his hand to a range of tasks. Eventually he ended up working for John and Helen Maclean at Drumore Farm, where the bothy provided Johnny with a semi-independent bedsit. He stayed, working for them for 28 years until they retired and when Drumore was sold to David and Jean Clark in 1988, they ‘inherited’ Johnny. He was to prove a most useful ‘tenant’ – able to do odd jobs,

feed and walk the dog and provide security when the Clarks were away. Thanks to the Macleans and the Clarks, Johnny spent the second half of his life secure, comfortable and looked after and able to keep in touch with members of his wider family with visits to Peterhead.

He was well-known in the village and around. He enjoyed the craic in the pub and loved entertaining others with his stories and his mimicry of animals and birds. In his retirement he tried to learn to read and for several years would turn up daily for an hour’s lesson and would work away at his homework in the evenings. He loved finding out how things worked and spent much time either mending or tinkering with mechanical and electrical equipment and gadgets; when not busy repairing something he would experiment with a video camera which he used with enthusiasm outdoors.

His sense of humour and his ability to make friends eased his path and, when he finally moved in 2004 to Allan Lodge Care Home, he quickly endeared himself to staff and residents. He is much missed by those who knew and cared for him.

RW/BP

Margaret Drummond 1921 – 2014

Margaret Drummond of Rowantree Cottage, a well-known figure in the village, died at the end of August.

Margaret was born in Paisley and brought up with her sister and brother on the family farm, Goodiebank near Thornhill. She was educated at McLaren High School, Callander. During the war, she worked as a house companion at Glenhead farm, Doune. There she met Henry whom she married in 1945 in Dunblane, and together they moved to Kippen and then to the Clachanry farm, Balfour Station, where they remained until they retired. Here Henry farmed and Margaret ran the farmhouse as a B&B for 20 years. Her hospitality was enjoyed by guests from all over the world, many of whom remained friends and kept in touch down the years. Here, too, their family, a son Peter and daughter Henrietta, were brought up.

In 1985 Margaret and Henry retired to Rowantree Cottage in Station Road and Margaret continued to be the epitome of the traditional farmer’s wife. Always briskly on the go, her house was filled with the aroma of her cooking – the day punctuated by the smell of breakfast, then the soup pot for lunch, and then the baking either for the household or the coffee shop and, finally, the family evening meal,



which would have been carefully planned the night before. It was her pleasure to cook for her family; even as the future generations grew up, the tradition of the family gathering around the meal table was one that she continued to the end of her life.

She was a highly organised lady of strictly kept routine, from her days of going to Stirling market every Thursday to her daily trips to the Killearn shops. Neatly dressed in hat, coat and gloves, one could almost set one’s watch by her precise timetable.

But she was also a welcoming hostess to friends and neighbours, and loved it when they dropped by to share a cup of tea, some of her home baking and to have a chat.

A devoted mother and grandmother, she was also regarded as an adopted grandmother to many of her family’s friends. Her marriage to Henry lasted almost 70 years and was one of constant support and companionship, with never a day apart. Their home was the centre of family life. She relished the time spent with her children, grandchildren, Henrika, Annika and Alastair, and with her great grandchildren, Amber and Clark. She will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

AT/BP

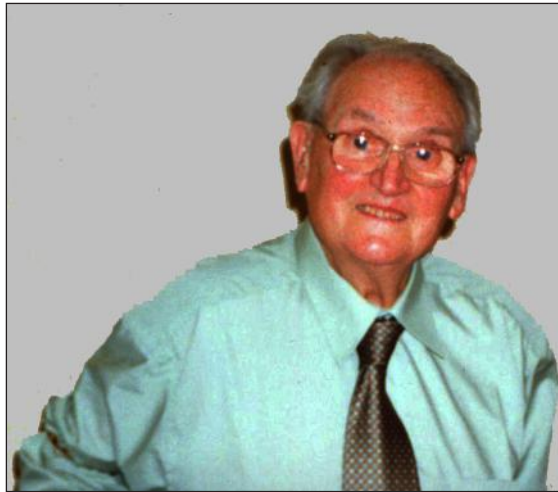
Alistair Crawford 1925 – 2014

Alistair was born in Uddingston, the second youngest of four children born to Agnes and James Crawford. He was an enthusiastic church choir boy and was very proud of his family's long connection with the town of Uddingston (and all things Tunnock!).

During the war he was posted to the Ministry of Supplies before joining the Royal Air Force. He thoroughly enjoyed his time in the RAF and spent a memorable time in Ceylon before being de-mobbed.

On his return to Scotland he enrolled at Agricultural College and gained his Diploma in dairy herd management. This proved to be his calling, leading to a working life of very early morning rises and lots of unsociable hours, but also the privilege of living in the beautiful countryside of Drymen.

In February 1952 he married Mary, and together they had three happy, healthy children, Stephen, Irene and Brian. The family moved to Drumquhassle Estate, Gartness Road in 1955, where Alistair was dairyman until the early '70s when the farm was sold, whereupon the family moved to Laighparks Farm (now Oakwood Garden Centre). Following the retirement of Dan Paterson, the farm owner, a move to Dunblane ensued in 1977, where Mary and Alastair went



on to spend another 34 very happy years.

When Alistair's health began to fail in 2011 they made the monumental move (both in their 80s) back to Killearn to be close to family.

They had a wonderful Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebration in 2012, they received an anniversary card from the Queen and also a home visit and presentation of a beautiful basket

of flowers from Stirling Provost, this was followed by a party in the Old Mill with their children, six grandchildren and friends, all in all quite some celebration.

Alistair's priority in life was his family, he was extremely proud of them all and was never shy in telling anyone who visited, he loved being with them and always enjoyed a good chat with anyone and everyone who visited their home.

Alastair was a very kind, hard-working, selfless man who was very well loved and is sorely missed by all his family.

The fantastic sum of £760 which was collected at the funeral has been donated to Alzheimer's Scotland and Crossroads in Alistair's memory.

BP

Hannelore Arnold 1930 – 2014

Anna Arnold, as she was known in Killearn, was born Hannelore Funk in the former German town of Koslin in Western Pomerania to her parents Wilhelm and Hedwig. She was the youngest of four daughters. She had a happy and comfortable childhood on a large farm where she grew to love animals and an outdoor life. This idyllic life was interrupted first by diphtheria, which left her with heart problems, but then more tragically when she lost her father and her home as a result of the war. This event led her mother to seek safety for herself and her daughters, with Anna eventually coming to stay in Scotland.

Anna, with no knowledge of English, adapted well, worked hard and through her work at Perth Infirmary met her future husband, Archie Arnold. They married in 1951 and settled in Killearn. Here their son, William, was born and they enjoyed a happy family life and, despite the distance, managed to keep in regular contact with their German relatives whom they visited every summer.

Anna was a great homemaker and a legendary baker of Black Forest gateaux. She was also a clever needlewoman and dressmaker. But she loved her garden and being outdoors; she was a good horsewoman, skater and skier – and had a great affection for dogs and horses. She would willingly walk other people's dogs as well as her own. With her neat, upright figure, rosy cheeks and friendly manner, she was a well known

village figure who enjoyed stopping and passing the time of day with others out walking, taking a keen interest in all the local news.

She and Archie were

a devoted couple, and his sudden death left a large hole in her life. Her family, William and Anne and grandson, Jamie, meant everything to her and time spent with them was very special and much valued by them all.

Her independent spirit and determination, mixed with a little eccentricity, gave her the strength to face life and survive through some hard times. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and neighbours.



BP

sponsors of the PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD Set by PeeWit

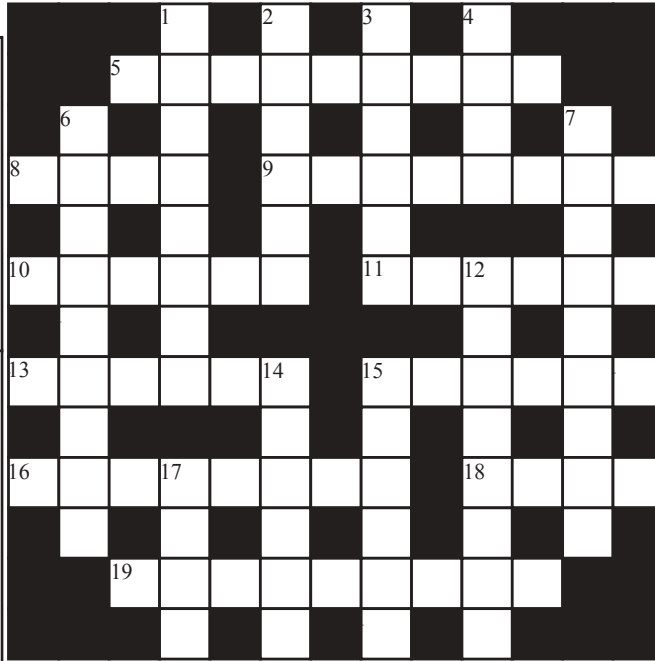
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Five of the across clues are the name of a 4 down and not further defined.

ACROSS

- 5. So a morsel could be bought here (9)
- 8. A bird's home changes end (4)
- 9. Discover an instrument (8)
- 10. Short stocking support starts nothing (10)
- 11. Look my French note (6)
- 13, 16. Fake hotline met (4,2,8)
- 15. One of five in short street is not straight (6)
- 16. See 13
- 18. Sounds as if he kens what's on his face (4)
- 19. Inside a hard innings (9)

DOWN

- 1. Actors around set begin early tape (8)
- 2. Iron in churchman makes it hard to hear (6)
- 3. Russian mountains within for male relief (6)
- 4. Hello children in the water (4)
- 6. Dearest Pa says we have split (9)
- 7. Honesty from man on top of 8 (9)
- 12. Grief broadcast before noon (8)
- 14. First foot stiff and very cold (8)
- 15. Turn around hard, unknown in Egypt (6)
- 17. Rant about very small 4 down (4)

Name Phone

Address

Solution to the last crossword Across: 1 Workforce; 8 On air; 9 Droptop; 10 Matadors; 11 Sari; 13 Nimbus; 14 Muesli; 16 Ewer; 17 Teardown; 19 Luggage; 20 Games; 21 Hot planet.
 Down: 3, 18, 1 Football World Cup; 4 Retransforms; 5 Explicitness; 6, 20 Commonwealth Games; 7 Bantamweight; 12 Outright; 15 Demean.

Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword: Catriona Thomson, Killearn.

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The first correct entry pulled out of the box will win a £10 voucher which may be spent on anything in your local SPAR.

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Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Katie Barr, age 10, Killearn.

Closing Date for both competitions – 3 January 2015. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Nature Notes: Go the Whole Hog

One of my most exciting wildlife encounters as a young boy was the day we found a hedgehog in our back garden. The poor creature, a large male, had become entangled in wire fencing underneath, you guessed it, a hedge, and just could not free himself. With some difficulty we were able to remove its tether before serving it a little milk and an egg by way of compensation. It then waddled off down the garden, occasionally renewing its acquaintance with us over the following weeks.



shouldn't worry us, whilst their liking of slugs and other invertebrates tends to make them popular with gardeners. The favour can be returned by creating potentially suitable areas within the garden for hedgehogs to escape the winter. They are one of the few British mammals that truly hibernate – they have to because their food supply is severely depleted in winter – but in doing so they run the risk of succumbing to the

While most of us will have seen a hedgehog, or indeed many hedgehogs, in our lifetime, daytime and prolonged views of this mainly nocturnal species are special, affording us opportunities to study them in more detail. My own research revealed that there was much to learn about these endearing garden visitors. For example, I discovered that, for those of us who wish to feed hedgehogs and encourage regular sightings, milk actually causes them stomach upset! The RSPCA instead recommends chopped boiled egg or cat/dog food.

Their many fleas are of a hedgehog-specific variety and

cold without plenty of leaf litter or logs for insulation. In addition, despite their spiny protection, hedgehogs are still preyed upon by foxes, badgers and other carnivores. Fast moving traffic is a further hazard, with flattened victims joining the array of pheasant, rabbit, fox and deer corpses strewn across our country roads.

With all these prickly problems, is it any wonder that there has been a significant decline in the UK hedgehog population in the last decade? So, please, spare a thought for them this winter and do what you can to provide food, nesting opportunities or both.

Martin Culshaw

The advertisement for Timberheart features a logo on the top left consisting of three concentric heart shapes. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Timberheart" in a large, sans-serif font, followed by "Log Cabins & Summer Houses in the heart of your garden" in a smaller font. Below the logo and text are four photographs of different garden buildings. The top right photo shows a small wooden log cabin with a green roof. The middle right photo shows a larger, octagonal wooden summer house with a red roof and large glass windows. The bottom left photo shows a white garden building with green trim around the windows and doors. The bottom right photo shows another white garden building with green trim and a dark roof. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a black banner with white text that reads: "For a truly unique luxury log cabin in the heart of your garden, call Ritchie on 01360 550268 or 07772 842450 or visit our website at www.timberheart.co.uk".

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