

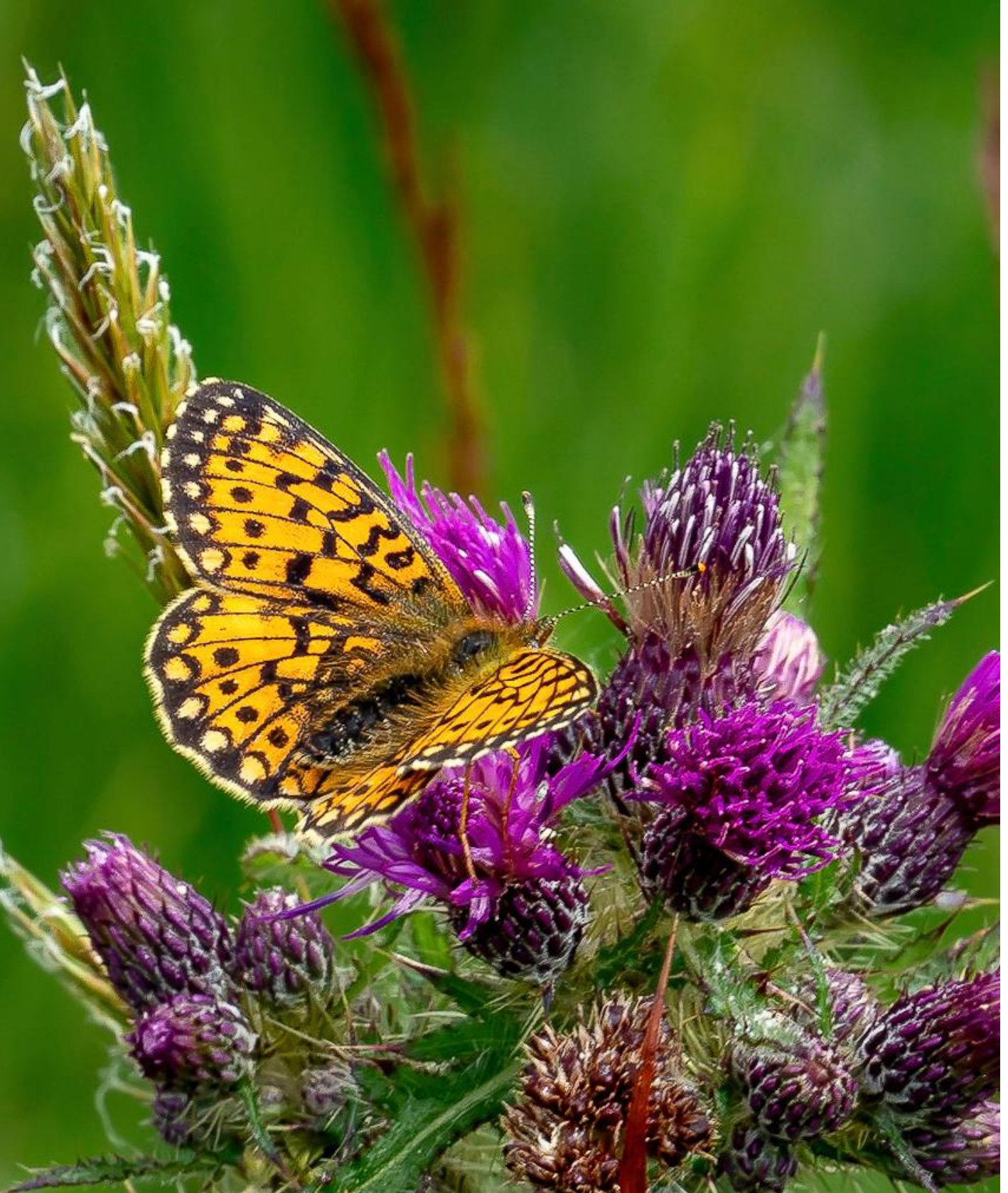


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 59

SUMMER 2024

£1



Noticeboard

- 31 Aug **Killearn Horticultural Society** Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Entries Friday, 7.30pm–9pm; Saturday, 7.30am–10am. For further details or to buy a schedule, please call 07788 373142 or see our Facebook page.
Colourful Killearn Fundraising Plant Sale, 2pm at the Annual Show. Contact colourfulkillearn@gmail.com.
- 2 Sept **Strathendrick Singers** New session begins. Balfron Church, 7.30pm. New members are especially welcome. If you can read music and aspire to sing the best of established and new classical music, please email hello@strathendricksingers.org.uk. More information on strathendricksingers.org.uk and our Facebook page.
- 9 Sept **Killearn Health Centre** closed.
- 14 Sept **West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** Open Day. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–1pm. New members and visitors welcome. First visit free. weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk or contact the secretary (weavers.in.glasgow@gmail.com).
- 17 Sept **Strathendrick Stitchers** Catch up with your UFOs. Sales table and library will also be available. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £3 per session, first visit free. For more information contact strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com.
Colourful Killearn Autumn Meeting and AGM. Village Hall, 8pm. Contact colourfulkillearn@gmail.com.
- 18 Sept **Killearn Community Council** Meeting. Garden Room, Village Hall and live stream over Zoom, 8pm. For link to join live stream, email contactus@killearncc.org.uk.
- 19 Sept **The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley** Lecture by Dominic Riley, ‘Lost on the Titanic: The Story of the Great Omar’. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Or contact artsocsfvchair@gmail.com for Zoom link. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
- 26 Sept **Drymen & District Local History Society** Talk by Murray Cook, ‘The Fords of Frew’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm. Membership £10 per annum including free attendance to all talks. Visitors welcome, £3 per talk. www.drymen-history.org.uk or follow us on Facebook [@drymenhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/drymenhistorysociety).
- 28 Sept **Killearn Country Market** Village Hall, 11am–4pm.
- 5 Oct **Killearn Kirk** Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10am. Gifts of tinned and dried food accepted to be donated to Start Up Stirling.
- 12 Oct **West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** talk by Bevan O’Daly, ‘Bawn textile shop and textile conservation’. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–1pm. New members and visitors welcome. First visit free. Contact details above.
- 14 Oct **Killearn Health Centre** closed.
- 15 Oct **Strathendrick Stitchers** Meeting including a talk by Fiona Wemyss on the Wemyss School of Needlework. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £3 per session. For more information contact strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com.
- 16 Oct **Killearn Community Council** Meeting. Garden Room, Village Hall and live stream over Zoom, 8pm. For link to join live stream, email contactus@killearncc.org.uk.
- 17 Oct **The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley** lecture by Brendan Cassidy, ‘The Art of Humour in the Middle Ages’. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Or contact artsocsfvchair@gmail.com for Zoom link.
- 19 Oct **Colourful Killearn** Autumn work party. 10am opposite the Co-op. Contact colourfulkillearn@gmail.com.
- 22 Oct **Killearn Community Futures Company** Annual General Meeting. Killearn Village Hall, 8pm. Contact Graeme Fraser (convenor@kfc.co.uk).
- 24 Oct **Drymen & District Local History Society** talk by Bruce Keith, ‘Scotland beneath the surface’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm. Membership £10 per annum including free attendance to all talks. Visitors welcome, £3 per talk. www.drymen-history.org.uk or follow us on Facebook [@drymenhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/drymenhistorysociety).
- 26 Oct **Killearn Country Market** Village Hall, 11am–4pm.
- 3 Nov **KCFC Bonfire and Fireworks** The Glebe, 7pm. Display at 7.30pm.
- 9 Nov **West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** Tapestry weaving workshop. CE Centre, Milngavie G62 8PN, 10am–1pm. New members and visitors welcome. First visit free. See 14 Sept for contact details.
Colourful Killearn War Memorial tidy up. Monument, 10am. Contact colourfulkillearn@gmail.com.
- 10 Nov **Killearn Kirk** Remembrance Service, 10am followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.45am.
- 16 Nov **Killearn Country Market** Village Hall, 11am–4pm.
- 19 Nov **Strathendrick Stitchers** Christmas workshops: blackwork baubles and tartan hearts. Sales table and library will also be available. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members welcome. Visitors £3 per session, first visit free. Contact strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com for more information.
- 20 Nov **Killearn Community Council** Meeting. Garden Room, Village Hall and live stream over Zoom, 8pm. For link to join live stream, email contactus@killearncc.org.uk.
- 21 Nov **The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley** Lecture by Julia Marwood, ‘Two Glasgow Boys – George Henry and Edward Hornal’. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Or contact artsocsfvchair@gmail.com for Zoom link.
Golden Years’ Club Family Bingo Evening. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm.
- 28 Nov **Drymen & District Local History Society** Talk by Alison Cathcart, ‘Imperial monarchy: James V’s voyage to the Isles’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm. Membership £10 per annum including free attendance to all talks. Visitors welcome, £3 per talk. www.drymen-history.org.uk or follow us on Facebook [@drymenhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/drymenhistorysociety).

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

Killearn Village Hall Classes and Clubs

MONDAY

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

GAMTA: Musical theatre and drama for children, 5.30pm–7pm. Contact Shaaron Graham (shaaron@gamta.org.uk).

TUESDAY

Badminton: Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Yoga Class: Main Hall, 9.30am–10.30am. Suitable for all. Contact Sarah (sarahfleming99@yahoo.com).

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

Lynda Turner School of Dance: Main Hall, 4pm–5.30pm. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).

Killearn Community Council: Meeting, third Wednesday of each month. Sept–June, 8pm, Garden Room. Email contactus@killearncc.org.uk for link to Zoom.

THURSDAY

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

Children's Music Class: Main Hall, 2.10pm–2.50pm. Contact Clare (claremondaymusic@gmail.com).

Linda Turner School of Dancing: Main Hall, 4pm–4.45pm. Pre-school dance class. Contact Lynda (770390; geolyn2000@hotmail.com).

Dance with Julie: Garden Room, 5.30pm–7pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (jjsymmonds36@gmail.com; 07496 231913).

Traditional Music Session: Monthly, Garden Room, 7.30pm–9.30pm. All instruments, abilities, singers, players welcome. Info available from Jackie (550576).

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

Killearn Country Market: Monthly. See posters for more details or contact Megan (dunmoredesigns@gmail.com).

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the 59th edition of the *Courier*. Hard to believe we started in March 2005 – with all of 16 pages.

Back then, we spent some time before our next issue came out in the August worrying about costs of production, encouraging the community to send us contributions and setting up a delivery service.

Issue 2 saw us inserting flyers for the first time – an application form for membership of KCFC and an invitation to come along to the ‘Save the Old School’ barbeque. The Old School may not have been saved, but KCFC is very much alive and kicking. While many of the other community interest companies set up in the wake of the founding of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park have folded, KCFC goes from strength to strength and is now a strapping 21 years old. You can learn more about this very worthwhile company, and all it does with your help for our village, in the centre pages of this issue. Please consider becoming a member.

During our ‘start up’ period, we were also blessed with a number of local businesses who took up advertising space, relieving our minds about where our next issue was coming from. Indeed, many of them have stayed with us, and we are really grateful for their support. In return, we are keen our readers should support them. ‘Think global, but act local’ is an environmental slogan which applies to local businesses, too!

Not once in all these years did we have anything but praise for our advertisers, but, as usual, there is always a first time!

A number of editions ago, we took an advert from a lady who had set up a new business in Killearn. She did not pay for it at that time – her bookkeeper had let her down and we were assured it would be sorted. With that in mind, we accepted another advert for the business – after all, it was local and times were tough. Eventually the debt had risen to three figures, and the usual attempts to recover it made no difference. We felt there was no option but to take the owner to the small claims court. We won our case, but to date the lady concerned has not responded and we are still owed. The Courier Group took the decision that it wasn't worth the legal fees to attempt to recover the amount owed, so we've chalked it up to experience. Fortunately for us, our financial situation is more secure than it was back in 2005, plus we have been blessed all these years with honest and decent advertisers to whom we owe our grateful thanks.

Anyway, never mind all that. This is a real summer issue, packed with flora and fauna, sporting achievements, getting out and about, and news and views.

Enjoy.

Ian

Cover

The cover photo of a fritillary butterfly was captured by Chris Bell, a keen wildlife and bird photographer, while walking near Dumgoyach Hill by the West Highland Way. Chris co-led the Killearn Natural History project's photography workshop; you can see more of his photos at www.chrisbellphotography.net. Our thanks to Chris for permission to use his image, which remains his copyright.

Letters to the Editor

News in Brief

Remember that Council residents still need to reserve a slot online to dispose of waste in Balfron's Recycling Centre as well as the centres at Lower Polmaise and Callander. This is to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres are accessed only by Stirling Council residents. It will also reduce indiscriminate use by commercial operators. Residents have free access with no limits to the number of visits. www.stirling.gov.uk/waste/book.

Did you know that people across the Stirling area walked and wheeled for a total of 19.9 million miles in 2023? The Walking and Cycling Index from Sustrans has shown that 18 million trips were made by walking and wheeling in Stirling last year, bringing an economic benefit of £27.2 million. The latest Index showed 53 per cent of local residents walk or wheel at least five days a week, with 19 per cent of residents cycling at least once a week. So now you know for whom all those paths have been made in town, eh?

Strathendrick Film Society may be looking at its last season after 75 years of operation due to costs spiralling upwards and membership spiralling downwards. Ways to reduce costs and increase income are being explored, but the coming season may be a short one, and the last.

Stirling Council is now enforcing regulations that came into effect in December 2023 designed to tackle the problems caused by parking on pavements, parking at crossing points and double parking. From 15 July, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) started to be issued for the three new contraventions. The fine is £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days of issue. Search 'Pavement Parking Prohibitions' at www.stirling.gov.uk.

All aboard the Trossachs Explorer, the new bus that connects Callander with Aberfoyle and then connects with the X10A to points south. See the timetable at www.mcgillsscotlandeast.co.uk/services.

West Homes has opened a second office on 86 Main Street in Callander, the better to serve clients in the village there, the surrounding areas and points north.

Sir,

I have noticed that many, if not all editions of the *Killearn Courier*, have carried an advertisement for the Glengoyne Distillery. This is all for the good – local enterprises should support local publications. However, imagine my surprise when, in search of a present for a visiting family member, I discovered that BY FAR the cheapest source of the excellent Glengoyne single malt whiskies was Amazon. Not the local distillery shop. Not the local Co-op. Rather the huge, minimum tax-paying megalith Amazon.

Why does the distillery not provide a discount in its shop for local purchasers? Even if it charged the same customer price as Amazon does, the distillery would still be making a profit on each and every purchase.

Sincerely,

Fair Skunnerd of Rowan Crescent

Dear Editor

Your recent edition touched upon inconsiderate parking within the village, whereby vehicles are parked wholly or partly upon pavements, inconveniencing those pushing prams, those using aids to walking/mobility scooters, those who may be visually impaired, young cyclists, etc. Sadly, the inconsiderate and selfish do not restrict their actions to parking on pavements.

The four electric vehicle charging points in the car park at Killearn Health Centre are frequently obstructed and their use denied to EV drivers by vehicles which do not require to use them.

Having first checked that a charging point is free, then to arrive to find it blocked by a vehicle which has no use for it and no need to park there, is hugely inconvenient and frustrating for people trying to go about their daily business.



Perhaps these selfish individuals might like to imagine how they would feel if, having driven miles to Balfron filling station, they arrived to find four EVs parked on the forecourt, needlessly blocking access to all four pumps.

In the event that the Health Centre car park is full, alternative parking can be found in the Kirk/Village Hall car park – a mere 1 minute walk away.

Please show some consideration for your fellow drivers, as well as your fellow pedestrians.

Sincerely

R. Knight

Although Mr Knight makes a valid point, the Health Centre car park is a public space, but the Village Hall and Kirk car parks are not. Ed

Calling All Readers

Of course, the Courier Group hopes you enjoy each and every page of all our editions, but we also suspect you might have favourites that you look forward to reading.

Personally, I loved Christine Bowie's reminiscences of her real-life adventures. Children jumping on concealed crates of explosives was one that resonated. 'Only Christine,' I used to think (and fervently hoped).

Our readers are generally pretty nice about the *Courier*. I have been made aware of a few duds in the last 19 years, but on the whole, the village has been very supportive.

So, may I ask a favour? Let us know not only what you like (which is lovely), but also what you skip right over.

Do you make a beeline for the centre pages?

Are you a glutton for anything to do with nature and the environment? Do you avoid the sports entirely?

Do you start with the puzzles and read through the edition backwards? Would you like to see more reviews of the high school's concerts and shows?

It's all grist to our mill.

Clearly, our publishing schedule of three times a year will always impact on how timely our coverage of local events can be. We do like to keep up with those seasonal markers in Killearn, like the Horti Show, the fireworks and everything to do with FADS and Christmas. And everybody loves a wedding, while the obituaries are simultaneously sad and illuminating.

We are aware that so much goes on that never makes it into an edition.

Are entire areas of village life being neglected?

We have always encouraged our readers to contribute stories and information on groups that attract a village membership. Are we missing yours?

We would be very keen to know what else you would like to see in the *Courier*. If you don't tell us, we might miss an awful lot.

How can you let us know what you think? Well, three ways, really.

1. You can nobble one of the group and let them know. They will report back.
2. Second, send your insights to courier@kcfc.co.uk, with a subject line of 'What I'd like to See'. These will be opened by only one person (probably me) and remain anonymous (like letters to the editor).
3. Third, you can put a letter into the postbox at the Village Hall, marked for the *Courier*. These will be treated the same way as email.

We're all journos on the *Courier* now, so have rhinoceros hides. Give it to us straight.

NANCY BAILEY



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The Weather Channel

After the storms at the end of 2023, January to April saw heavy rainfall totals with records being broken, particularly in the south of England. Scotland was not immune. Edinburgh received twice its monthly rainfall in just the first 10 days of April. March in Killearn was wet and dull and April wasn't any drier.

However, things improved in May when we had strong sunshine, followed – as is customary this time of the year – by a thundery breakdown.

Exciting events on May 10–11 had people dividing into two camps: those who saw the aurora and those who slept through it. I was in the second! The biggest geomagnetic storm in 20 years meant that the Northern Lights were visible as far south as northern Italy.

So what happens to produce an aurora? A solar storm approaches and some of its energy, small particles, travel down magnetic field lines at the north and south poles into the Earth's atmosphere. There the particles interact with gases in our atmosphere, which result in beautiful displays of coloured light in the night sky.

Our sun provides Earth with almost all of its visible light, it is when this light interacts with our atmosphere



(which maybe polluted) that the light separates into its various colours namely red, orange, yellow, green and blue. Each colour represents a different wavelength – or rather a different distance from one peak to the next. The shorter wavelengths are seen as blue light, and then the longer the distance between wavelengths the colours green to red appear.

TOM RENFREW

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2024)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Highest Temp	11.1	12.1	15.2	16.9	24.8	22.1
Lowest Temp	-6.2	-4.5	-0.8	-0.9	5.8	4.2
Mean Temp	3.2	5.6	6.6	8.5	13.4	12.3
Days Below Freezing	14	7	1	4	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	15	24	24	40	19	27
Monthly Rain	119.8	116.4	103	132.7	93	66.5
Most Rain in 24 hrs	43.8	17.3	16.9	24.7	22.4	8.8
Days without Rain	10	3	6	7	15	7
Cumulative Rainfall	119.8	236.2	339.2	471.9	564.9	631.4

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

February and March figures from Drymen while Killearn Weather Centre is being upgraded.

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Come to the Annual Show

Killearn Horticultural Society 158th Annual Show Saturday, 31 August 2024 Church Hall and Village Hall

The Show is a family-friendly event where everyone is welcome not just to attend, but also to enter the Show competition itself.

The schedule has full details of all the classes in the competition and gives a family free entry to the Show. And it's not just about plants. There are more than a dozen sections, including baking, craftwork, art, photography, preserves, wines and cordials, as well as the ever-popular cut flowers, vegetables and pot plants.



If you need a schedule, please call 07788 373142, or message our Facebook page, and we will deliver one to your door for £3.

All the cut flowers at this year's Show will be made available for sale to the public from 4pm – unless otherwise stated. Last year we raised nearly £200 for Strathcarron Hospice and we also donated veg and fruit to Drumchapel food bank. We will do the same this year unless a 'not for sale' sticker is displayed on the cut flowers vase or fruit and veg entries.

You don't need to register to enter – just bring your schedule with you. The Village and Church Halls will be open for staging of exhibits from 7.30pm to 9pm on Friday, 30 August and on the day of the Show, from 7.30am to 10am. Each competitor must ensure that their name and class number are clearly written on the supplied entry card. Exhibits can be removed after 4.30pm.

Don't forget to bring your schedule for free entry to the Show for you and your family or you can buy one at the door. The Show opens from 2pm, but for visitors with restricted mobility, we open the halls from 1pm. Tea and cakes are served in the Church Hall from 2.45pm. If you have a question on the day, please ask a Horti member – they will be wearing a green rosette. The latest news is on our website (www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk) and we look forward to seeing you on the day!



Encouraging youngsters to enter the Annual Show

Last year we had a record number of entries from children, and we're looking forward to seeing just as many this year. The youth section of the Show's competition is split into three school age groups and, as an incentive, has bigger prizes!

The schedule has full details or you can find the two-page youth entry flyer on our website. There's an art and craft section, a horticulture section for fruit and vegetable entries, a floral section and a baking section. While younger children may need help with certain sections, there are many that children of all ages can tackle themselves.

Help us set up the Annual Show

The Show takes a fair bit of planning, effort and elbow grease, and we need help setting up. If you are feeling community-spirited, please come along to one or all of the following sessions:

- ✂ Thursday, 29th, at 7pm in the Village Hall 'All hands on deck'
- ✂ Friday, 30th, from 1.30pm, for moving heavy stuff from the Village Hall to Church Hall
- ✂ Saturday, 31st, at 2pm in the Church Hall for setting up the tea room
- ✂ Saturday, 31st, from 4.30pm – for clearing up after it's all over

Scarecrow Competition!

Don't forget the Show's scarecrow competition.

There was great innovation and style to be found in last year's scarecrow competition and the winner can only be described as scary, with its feathery angel wings, spooky blue unblinking eyes and gorgeous roses and sunflowers adorning its dress.

For this year's competition, your scarecrow can be any size, any shape and any animal or person, real or fictional. You could even make a tableau of scarecrows. There will be a prize for the best entry.



How to enter:

- ✂ Write your name(s) and address on a piece of paper and place in a sealed envelope
- ✂ Attach the envelope to your scarecrow
- ✂ Bring your scarecrow to the Annual Show, between 12noon and 1.30pm (before the opening time), to the back of the car park
- ✂ Afterwards your scarecrow can return home with you

We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday – or hopefully before!

PAUL SEARLE

Killlearn Village Hall News

Times are hard for everyone just now and we're feeling it at the hall, too. We'd like to take the chance to record our thanks to a couple of organisations which have helped us over the past few months when we were successful in bidding for funding.

First, we'd like to thank Forth Environment Link (FEL) (felscotland.org). FEL funds local projects that support communities towards making everyday changes that are good for them and better for the planet. They support practical, innovative ways of improving lives and reducing climate impact. Our funding from FEL allowed us to engage with experts to seek views and insights to explore options for implementing a sustainable energy solution tailored to the hall's unique and complex needs.

The main highlight for us through the project has been what we have learned about:

Energy management – a local resident is an expert in the science of meter reading, and he talked us through energy monitoring. As a result, we've been doing more tracking to understand gas and electricity flows.

Ecological architecture and retrofitting – we engaged with a local architect who specialises in energy reduction and conservation. In walking around the building, we were able to ascertain where the biggest losses were and how we might address these in the shorter and longer terms. Some easy fix solutions are window blinds and draught excluders, as well as roof insulation.

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26TH OCTOBER
16TH NOVEMBER
7TH DECEMBER
13TH DECEMBER
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Energy solutions – helped by a local company, we have been through an audit of the current solutions and have tested some options to revive the ground source heat pump that was installed 10 years ago. We've also looked at alternative solutions.

We definitely feel better informed and look forward to taking the work forward into a longer-term sustainable energy plan.

We'd also like to thank Clackmannanshire & Stirling Environmental Trust (CSET). The Trust manages landfill community funds raised through the landfilling of municipal waste from both Stirling and Clackmannanshire councils and supports local community development projects. They've been really supportive in recognising that when funds are tight, it is very hard to put money into doing necessary maintenance and repairs.

Our funding from CSET has helped us to complete repairs to the balcony and the flooring at the hall. We hope this will create a brighter, cleaner feel to the space that will, in turn, bring more weddings and event bookings.

On the balcony, we stripped back existing ply-wood and fitted new anthracite PVC board – really giving the balcony a fresh new look. In the downstairs corridor, we replaced old, dark-red carpet tiles with Moduleo vinyl click flooring to give a much more resilient floor cover, which looks much lighter, brighter and cleaner.

The funding is conditional on volunteer contributions to help offset some of the costs, and we've been busy with paint brushes and cleaning tools to help tidy up the paintwork and the décor where we can. There is a lot of work still to do – but it's been encouraging to see the difference so far, and huge thanks to the team of volunteers at the hall! Your support is very much appreciated.

We're still looking to boost income and we're still looking to bring more visitors to the hall and do more for local residents. We're boosting our wedding and event advertising through Facebook and Instagram, and we've updated our website www.killlearnvillagehall.co.uk.

Got an idea? Want to chat about a booking? Email us at killlearnvillagehall@gmail.com.



FIONA RENNIE

Lighting up the Sky for Good Causes

Photographer Norman McNab was more than a mile away and 300 feet up the hill path above Killearn when he took this splendid photo of last year's firework display.

The display was organised as usual by volunteers from Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC), and it raised a larger sum than on any previous occasion. Thanks to the generosity of the many people who turned out on the night and the local businesses who advertise in the event's brochure, a total of £1,500 was raised for local youth organisations and groups who provide organisational support. Beneficiaries were Killearn Guides, Blanevalley Cubs, Balfron Scouts, Drymen Scouts and Killearn Kirk, as well as Trossachs Search and Rescue, who were in attendance on the night.

KCFC would like to thank the volunteers who built the bonfire and prepared the Glebe and surrounding area before the fireworks. Also a massive thanks to everyone who helped on the night by shaking a bucket and who cleared up the site afterwards. The Glebe is primarily



used for grazing sheep, so the clear up on the night and the next day has to be meticulous. Thanks must also go to the Kirk for allowing the volunteers to use their hall for admin and counting donations.

Organisers are aware of the issues that fireworks can cause and conclude that a single, well-publicised event hugely reduces the

widespread and unpredictable ignition of fireworks throughout the village. For many years the technical side of the display has been run very efficiently by 21CC, a professional fireworks display provider. But as with many activities, our costs have escalated significantly which will make the decisions about future events more challenging.

Finally, KCFC would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to suggest a locally-run good cause for this year's main fundraising initiative. Please contact Graeme Fraser, the main organiser, via email convenor@kfc.co.uk if you have a charity or cause in mind.

PAUL SEARLE



YOUR LOCAL ALLTRADES BUILDER



Jenny's Mill, Glasgow Road, Blanevalley, Glasgow, G63 9HY

info@blanevalley.co.uk www.blanevalley.co.uk

Phone: 01360 770983 Mobile: 07786 735 211

 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram 

Killlearn Bridge Club: Past, Present and Future Plans



Tree was one of several venues for league matches. Lessons for complete beginners started in 2018, and these were mainly held in Balfour's McLintock Hall. However, the hope was always that one day the club could return to Killlearn, and this hope was finally realised in 2019. The current venue is the Village Hall's Garden Room.

Of course, the Covid pandemic meant that face-to-face meetings had to be suspended, but rather than close altogether, Killlearn Bridge Club started to play online. The club was the first in Scotland to use RealBridge, an excellent platform that allows players to see, hear and chat with each other as well as play authentic games – preserving the social side of bridge along with the competitive. The SBU now also use RealBridge. However, Killlearn got there first!

RealBridge is so enjoyable (and easy to use) that Killlearn continues to use the platform. Check the club's website (bridgewebs.com/killlearn) and you will see that the programme now includes both face-to-face sessions in the Garden Room and online sessions via RealBridge.

You will also find that many of the earliest traditions survive. The club still meets on Tuesday evenings, it still plays for some of the original trophies, and it still fields a team in the West District league. Local friendlies and the Lorimer Shield continue, although now only against Drymen, for declining membership means that, sadly, the other clubs have had to close.

Killlearn Bridge Club is proud of its traditions, but equally knows that it cannot stand still. So, on **Sunday, 15 September**, the club is hosting an Open Day in the Village Hall, to which everyone is invited. Have you never played bridge, but think you might be interested in learning the game? Have you played a little in the past, but haven't joined a club or played in a tournament? Do you need a bridge partner? Are there specific skills you would like to develop either with

RealBridge, face-to-face play or bridge in general? Do you have suggestions for the club's future development? No matter where you are coming from, the Open Day will provide.

Tempted to come along? Please contact the president Gavin Hunter (gavin.hunter1@gmail.com; 07872 886196) or vice-president Susan Horsburgh (susanhorsburgh17@gmail.com; 07930 946607). If you tell them what you are looking for in relation to bridge, they will explain when on 15 September relevant activities are scheduled. Then all you need do is turn up and enjoy the day. Activities and refreshments will be provided free of charge, although a voluntary contribution to Cancer Research will be appreciated.

Forty-eight years ago, eight people met in one of their homes to consider forming a village bridge club. Deciding to go ahead, they advertised in a local shop and received 17 expressions of interest. Further support emerged after adverts in the *Stirling Observer* and *Bearsden & Milngavie Herald*, so in 1976 Killlearn Bridge Club was formed. The inaugural meeting was held in the Black Bull one Tuesday evening in October, with 32 enthusiastic bridge players turning up to join.

The club quickly established itself as a force to be reckoned with. A mere five years after formation, membership was up to 44 active players, and a range of trophies had been donated and were being competed for. Friendly matches against other local clubs were arranged and much enjoyed. Thanks to Lorimer Brewery's generous support, these clubs started coming together on one evening each year to play for the Lorimer Shield. Affiliation to the Scottish Bridge Union (SBU) meant that Killlearn players could enter Scotland-, UK- and world-wide competitions, with frequent success.

Killlearn Bridge Club met in the Black Bull for nearly 30 years, but then had to move elsewhere, including the Winnock in Drymen and the Kirkhouse and Country House hotels in Strathblane. In 1993, the club started playing in the SBU's West District league, and the Beech



Wilson – Simpson



A wonderful, happy day was enjoyed by family and friends at The Engine Works, Glasgow, on 4 April, celebrating the marriage of Fraser Simpson and Katie Wilson. Fraser grew up and was educated in Killearn, and Katie is from Strathaven. The couple have made their home in Hamilton, where Fraser works as a chef and Katie is a primary school teacher.

It's Never Too Early for Advent Windows



Only four months until Christmas Day, and so it's time to start planning Killearn's Advent Window Trail.

This has become a very popular and anticipated tradition in the village, and the organisers are starting to look for residents – and businesses – who can offer to decorate their visible-from-the-street window during December.

The organisers are particularly keen for groups of houses on the same road to unveil a set of windows on the same evening. For instance last year, four houses on Branziert Road opened on 8 December, helping to raise a total of £1,612.39 for Shelter Scotland.

Whether you're a regular or want to join in for the first time, we welcome everyone who is interested. For more information, please get in touch with the team at killearn.advent.windows@gmail.com.



Festival of Bridge
It's a big deal!

Playing bridge to raise funds for Cancer Research UK

Event: Killearn Bridge Club Open Day
Date: Sunday 15 September
Time: 10am – 4pm
Location: Killearn Village Hall
Contact: Gavin or Susan
gavin.hunter1@gmail.com; 07872 886196
susanhorsburgh17@gmail.com; 07930 946607

Visit the SBU website for more information:
www.sbu.org.uk/festival

Join the conversation on:   

Banquet for Bees at Killearn War Memorial

The decision by Stirling Council to stop their planting of annual bedding has left our War Memorial looking rather forlorn. Particularly sad given that we have just been remembering the events and sacrifices of 80 years ago!

With some trepidation, Colourful Killearn has stepped into the breach (cue military metaphors) and agreed to take on the flowerbeds around the monument and prevent the Council from grassing the whole area. With support from Sustainable Killearn and the organisation Beds for Bees, we are developing a plan of campaign for a permanent planting of perennial flowers and shrubs that will attract and nurture our struggling pollinators throughout the year.

The handover from the Council has come too late to allow a rapid deployment, though we may be able to get some of the late-flowering plants dug in. In the meantime, we have immediately put in some instant colour as a stopgap over this summer – if the weather ever warms up,

we should get a lovely carpet of red and white begonias. The plan then is to phase in the permanent planting over the subsequent year or so as plant availability and resources permit.



Before



After

We sincerely hope that other village organisations and residents would like to give us a hand in keeping such a prominent village landmark in good fettle. Both funds and person-power will be needed to make this project successful. We will be weeding and deadheading regularly over the summer, and intend a major tidy-up on Saturday, 9 November, the day before Remembrance Sunday. Please do get in touch.

We will be having a fundraising plant sale at the Horticultural Society's annual show on 31 August and would love to see you there. We will then be planning winter jobs and spring planting on Tuesday, 17 September in the Village Hall. Please, do come along and join us.

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Rededication of the War Memorial

The Killearn War Memorial was officially unveiled by Miss AL Guthrie Smith on 6 April 1924. The initial memorial plaque carried the names of 28 men who died in World War I, with five casualties of World War II added later. To mark the 100th anniversary of the unveiling, a short rededication service, led by Rev. Stuart Sharp, was held at the memorial on Sunday, 28 April.

The service was attended by some 40–50 people. The Lord Lieutenant of Stirling was accompanied by a piper, who also played the Lament as part of the service. The Last Post was played, and part of the poem, written by the late Rev. Gordon Mitchell and inscribed on the back of the memorial, was read out.

It had been hoped that a new memorial plaque, to be dedicated to the men with Killearn connections who died in the war but are not remembered on the memorial, could be unveiled during the ceremony. However, obtaining the necessary permissions to add a new plaque had taken longer than expected and this has had to be delayed.

Following the service the attendees joined the Spring Tea Party in the Village Hall for refreshments courtesy of the tea party organisers.



Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is a social afternoon for senior people of the village, held weekly in the church hall, from September to May (excluding Christmas and Easter). Games such as dominoes, Scrabble and whist are followed by afternoon tea, which is provided by volunteers, many of whom have been with us for over 20 years. Transport is available for members with mobility issues.

This year we had a visit from Clackmannan & Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership when volunteers were able to highlight the lack of accessible transport available to groups whose members have mobility issues.

In April, we had a performance from ‘danceSing’, led by Lindsay (née Ashworth, previously of Killearn).

Seated exercises were followed by an entertaining

selection of songs, then everyone enjoyed mixing together over tea and cakes. At the start of May, the year was topped off

by a visit to Ward Toll for afternoon tea and shopping in the garden centre. As many members have mobility issues, or no longer drive, such a change of venue out of the village is stimulating. A musical performance of *Disco Inferno* by pupils of Balfron High School in June was thoroughly enjoyed by a group of 14 participants and volunteers.

If you feel a member of your family would benefit from being in the group or you might be able to volunteer a couple of hours once a month, find out more from Maureen (550743), Pat (550074) or Alison (550155).



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A KILLEARN HERITAGE TRAIL NATURAL HISTORY PROJECT – FROM DAWN TO DUSK –



The Killearn Natural History Project has had a busy summer engaging various groups in the community. The project is developing the KHT website to include flora and fauna that are special to our environment or common in our area. Key species are divided into five habitats:

- ▲ Garden
- ▲ Woodland
- ▲ Farmland
- ▲ Moorland
- ▲ Waterside

Habitat Walks

Each class in Killearn Primary School has chosen one of these habitats and one or two species to study.

“ I liked trying to find all the animals on the checklist. We didn’t find the bats because they are nocturnal. I like how bees go to one flower to get pollen and then to the next flower and then to the next and it just goes on and on spreading pollen. ”



Image: Sarah Deas

In May, members of the project led habitat walks around the village: P1 to Killearn Glen; P2 and P2/3s to a garden; P3 and P4 to the fields up Ibert Road; P5 and P6 to the moor above the Pipe Track and P7 to the River Endrick down Drumtian Road. The children were really well informed and engaged with their topics.

Dawn Chorus Birdwalk

At daybreak on the first Sunday in May, Nigel Pope led a second Dawn Chorus Birdwalk, this time down at the Endrick at Ballochruin Bridge. More than 20 species were heard or seen, ranging from wrens, warblers, redstarts and reed buntings to sandpipers, sand martins and greylag geese. Twenty hardy souls put their alarm clocks on early to join the walk.

Wildlife Photography Workshop



Image: Nick Hawkins

In June, the project organised a wildlife photography workshop led by local experts Robert Dunn and Chris Bell. This was really well received and the group are busy working on their shooting and editing techniques.

The results will be shared with the *Courier* (which sponsors this project) in due course.

Moth Trapping Event



Also in June, Martin Culshaw, the *Courier's* regular natural history contributor, organised a second moth trapping event.

A light trap was set overnight in a garden near the Glen and over 30 species were attracted, identified, recorded and released. These included the spectacular Elephant Hawk-moth (see image above by Ann Beaty) and the Edinburgh Pug – which is rarely seen in this area.

Work on the key species and habitats continues, and the project plans to launch the website early next year.

NH



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You Have the Power



Sustainable Killearn is based on two ideas. First, almost all of us live in an unsustainable way. Second, we all have the power to change. At our meet-up held earlier in the year, we discussed a number of the ongoing projects being supported by Sustainable Killearn and other groups within KCFC.



Energy and retrofitting buildings is a key concern for Killearn. Only half our houses have EPC certificates and less than 40 per cent of those are a band C or better. We need to support a transition to low carbon heating, but we need to do more than just switch heating sources.

Addressing energy sustainability starts by reducing energy consumption. In our homes, that will initially mean energy efficiency measures such as insulation. Only after that should we progress to low carbon (or no carbon) heat systems which will be powered from renewable generation.

A growing emphasis on electrical supply for both electric vehicles and domestic heating will stretch current national infrastructure. Local infrastructure and local renewable generation will become increasingly important. But if we put off doing these things now, more people will be driven into fuel poverty and more homeowners will be unwilling to move away from gas and oil later.

Over the second half of 2024, Sustainable Killearn plans to have engagement sessions to help households find out more and to understand any concerns you might have about energy and retrofitting.

Food sustainability involves thinking more about what we eat. How far did it travel to get to our plates? Is it in season? Can we ensure we avoid food waste? Many of these concerns can be solved by growing our own or buying locally. Most of us have bits



of garden that we could utilise to grow some veg – though at the time of writing, what has passed as summer 2024 had been quite challenging! Great advice and a very supportive community can be gained from joining the Facebook Group G63 Food Growers, who are also behind the Seed Library in the Village Hall. Alternatively, foraging can provide an excellent seasonal uplift to your menu planning. Or if you are lucky enough to have apple trees, why not take part in one of the community apple pressings this autumn?

Managing our resources must go beyond the guidance on recycling, which should always be a last resort not a first step. Reduce, reuse and repair can all make a far greater contribution to saving scarce resources.

The Little Library continues to circulate some great reading material throughout the village, and last year's SWISH event saw 237 clothing items given a new lease of life in someone else's wardrobe.

In June, the Village Hall hosted the first visit by the West Stirling Repair Café. Getting people to move to a mending mindset can save money and help save energy and resources, so please watch out for future visits. And if you have repair skills (especially in fabrics/textiles), please do get in touch.

Looking after the landscape should be easy when we are so lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of Scotland.

The anticipated Killearn Natural Heritage website will offer insights into flora and fauna, but in the meantime let's make sure we do our bit to safeguard the biodiversity that surrounds us.

Well done to all those households who took part in No Mow May (and even better those who kept it going into June and July).

Great also to see the Conservation Volunteers working with Buchanan View's residents to plant almost 700 native hedging whips and saplings as part of the restoration of the site. Pollinator patches at the Village Hall, the Sports Pavilion and Killearn Primary School are all doing well, but where else could we give nature a hand?

Sustainable Killearn's website will help you identify some of the areas in which we can all make a difference. Find out more at sustainablekillearn.org.

The sooner we start and the more of us who start, the bigger that difference will be. FRANK DEAS



Butterfly Monitoring

Slowly pushing a bicycle along the old railway line through Croftamie carrying a clipboard frequently invites questions. One day, when the reason was explained to two ladies, they suggested it would be a good article for the *Courier*. So, here it is.

There is a comprehensive butterfly monitoring scheme in the UK with several ways to take part. For many years, we have regularly recorded butterflies seen while out walking on a casual basis and submitted annual records to Butterfly Conservation Scotland. We became aware of a more formal way of monitoring populations by taking on a 'transect'. These are specific routes, 1–2km in length, which should be walked once a week from April to September, recording the numbers and species of butterflies seen. While walking a transect is fairly straight forward (though involving some dedication), setting up a new one involves quite a lot of work. Fortunately we adopted a local transect which had been set up in 2015, but then abandoned. It runs along National Cycle Route 7 following the old railway line from Gartness Road through Croftamie up to the minor road towards Balloch.

There are rules to be followed to ensure the data recorded, which is added to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme database, is consistent between locations and years. The transect should be walked once a week for 26 weeks with the first week of the year starting on 1 April. This year that was a Monday, so the

recording weeks run from Monday to Sunday. There are time and weather rules to be followed.

- * The survey should be between 10:45 and 15:45 (though 10:00 to 17:00 may be allowed).
- * The shade temperature should be at least 13C if the sun is shining at least 60 per cent of the time or at least 17C if there is less sunshine.
- * It must not be raining.
- * Wind speed should be estimated using the Beaufort Scale (0 to 6).
- * Only butterflies seen up to 5m ahead and 2.5m to each side should be counted.

In our area it is often difficult to find a window where the time and weather conditions are satisfied. Close attention has to be paid to the weather forecast.

A survey form, which can be downloaded from the Butterfly Conservation website, lists the species likely to be seen with boxes to add the data. There are 35 species listed, though only 12 have been recorded on our transect in the last three years. The bicycle has been found to be the most convenient way to carry out the survey. It can be ridden to the far end of the transect, walked slowly back to the start while filling in the form on the clipboard, then ridden home. Volunteers are asked to monitor a transect for at least five years, so we will need to continue until at least 2026.



Orange Tip



Small Tortoiseshell



Ringlet

PHOTOGRAPHS : PETER SMITH
ARTICLE: PETER AND GILL SMITH

Spring Tea Party is Great Success

Last year's Coronation Tea Party and the Platinum Jubilee party in 2022 were deemed huge successes, and so a small team organised another for this year. The Spring Tea Party took place on 28 April and around 90 folk from across the village participated.

There was a fantastic response from bakers and volunteers, plus some great prizes were donated for the raffle, which raised £414.50 for the Village Hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and took part, especially the young bakers from Killearn Kids Hub.



Trees of Killearn

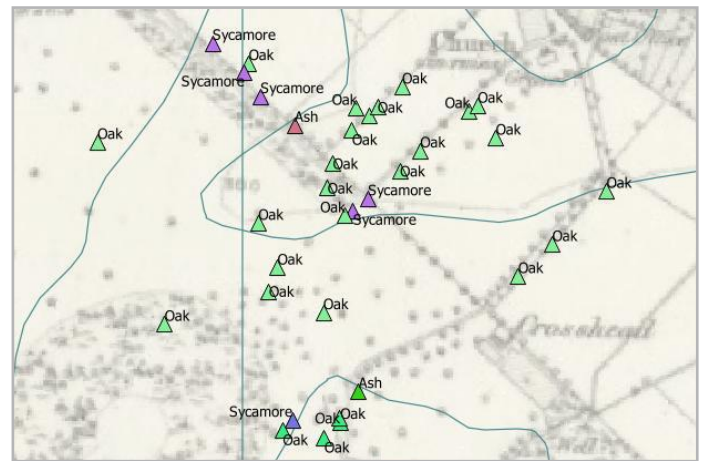
Like many Killearn residents, we were horrified to come down the path by the old cemetery one morning in May, to find an enormous oak branch lying on the playing field. Not just any branch, but one from the tree that many residents think of as the ‘hub’ of the village due to its situation on the junction of the paths and the corner of the football pitch. It even featured as the *Courier* cover picture exactly a year ago.

It was with great relief, a few days later, that it was learned that the tree was healthy and would not require felling. The limb loss was probably a case of ‘summer branch drop’ which can occur with over-extended limbs. The heavy rain that morning combined with new foliage and a lack of wind to disperse the rain may have made the branch fail.

A few days later, when the branch had been cut up, the growth rings could be clearly seen. A photograph was taken and used to count the rings. This revealed part of the limb to be around 200 years old and, as the main trunk is probably 20 or 30 years older, this indicated the tree was probably planted between 1770 and 1810.



In some cases, multiple saplings were planted close together and matured to appear as a single tree. The shape of the main trunk suggests this may be the case with our tree. This would fit in with the landscaping carried out by the owners of the Place of Killearn during that period. The six inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1861 shows individual large trees. Three lines of trees are shown extending from the village centre across what is now the playing field towards the Crosshead Farm boundary wall which is still visible in part in Beech Drive. During the excavation of the site of the Place of Killearn in 2012, All Killearn Archive carried out a tree survey using GPS positioning. The results can be superimposed on the 1861 map showing many of the trees still exist and are oaks. The playing field oak is located in the middle row. The map shows another tree close to the



graveyard boundary which no longer exists. However, a poem by George Colburn of Glasgow published in the *Stirling Observer* of 21 July 1917 tells of the fate of this tree.

The Fallen Oak, Killearn

*Two centuries had scarce sufficed to raise,
Through rain and sunshine, and through calm and storm,
Its trunk majestic and wide-spreading form,
Still lifting heavenwards its head in praise.
A few short hours of toil, and it was laid
Beside the old churchyard, as still as they,
The worthy sleeping villagers, who lay,
All quietly resting in their earthy bed.
In life a noble thing to fill the eye
With wonder and delight. In death to fill
Man's needs, when shaped by labour and skill,
A perfect lesson in utility.
So let us shape our ways that we may be
Useful in life and death, like this oak tree.*

AKA have a copy of *The Forester* by Ian Niall which is a biography of James Shaw, a forester of Killearn. This reveals that almost all trees in Killearn were felled during World War I, making our tree a rare survivor.

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art4you Scotland is thrilled to announce that our recent art exhibition has raised a grand total of £5,816 in support of Start Up Stirling. The event saw an incredible display of generosity from our art community.

Students generously donated their artwork, contributing 100 per cent of the sales price to the charity. This remarkable gesture underscores the spirit of giving and community support that defines art4you Scotland.

Claudia and Ewen Duncan, founder and owner of art4you Scotland, commented: 'We can only give our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this success. The generosity and participation of each individual have made a tangible difference in contribution to Start Up Stirling's vital work within our local community and supporting those living in hardship.'

'This event serves as a shining example of how small actions can lead to significant impact. Together, we have demonstrated the power of community support in backing a worthy cause.'

Carol Finlay, community fundraiser at Start Up Stirling, stated: 'We are delighted to have been invited along to see all the fantastic work created by the artist and students at art4you Scotland, the money raised, like the theme of the event, will support those living in hardship in the Stirling Council area. We send all our thanks to everyone involved for your incredible support.' Start Up Stirling is a registered charity (SCIO SC035477). If anyone would still like to contribute, please visit our funding page: startupstirling.org.uk/donate.

For more information about art4you Scotland and their ongoing efforts to support local charities and the community, contact Claudia Duncan (art4youscotland.co.uk).

Cycling Killearn launches Bike Buddies



Cycling Killearn aims to promote cycling and build an inclusive, supportive cycling community in and around the village. Our research identified that one of the biggest barriers to cycling is a lack of confidence on the bike and/or the road, and limited

knowledge of local routes.

So... we've launched a new initiative: **Bike Buddies!**

How does it work?

🚲 We have a small group of volunteers who have completed Cycling Scotland's Ride Leader training.

🚲 A volunteer will ride with you, either one-to-one or in a small group, to help build confidence and introduce you to some of the local routes.

🚲 It's free! Visit our website (www.cycling-killearn.org), complete the enquiry form and we'll connect you up with a buddy. You can use your own bike, or perhaps you'd like to borrow a community e-bike?

See more on our website or check out the QR code for Bike Buddies.



BETH LANG, CAROL MURRAY & SARAH DEAS (CO-LEADS)

South West Stirling Climate Action Network

Over the last 18 months, Sustainable Killearn has been collaborating with groups in Balfron, Strathblane, Drymen, Buchlyvie and Aberfoyle. Much of this was to support the creation of a Forth Valley Climate Action Hub, which came into being in October 2023.

The Climate Action Hub will help make everyone aware of the climate and nature emergency, and strengthen community resilience to climate change. However, there was a need for a more localised group. So we are creating the South West Stirling Climate Action Network. This network will operate across our communities to increase our combined impact with reference to climate change and sustainability. It will enable larger-scale projects, such as sustainable energy, to be developed covering the whole area.

For more information and to register an interest in the initiative contact sustainable@kfcf.co.uk.

FRANK DEAS

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The work of the Community Council has remained busy in the run up to the summer break, with housing, planning and roads still to the forefront of the agenda.

The new housing by CALA on the old hospital site is now well underway. The site is cleared and much of the infrastructure in place. The CALA team remain in frequent contact and their expectation is to have a sales unit in operation soon, with the first homes up by the end of this year, and hopefully occupied in the spring of 2025. The safe pedestrian access between the site and the village remains under discussion, but the specification has been agreed and implementation is now with Stirling Council. We will continue to chase this as the state of the 'pavement' on Station Road remains completely unacceptable.

Work has also begun on site clearing for the new housing at the bottom of Lampson Road. While closure of the Blane Smiddy bridge is causing significant disruption locally, the repair was badly needed, and will hopefully be a definitive and lasting one. At the time of writing it is reported to be progressing on schedule.

KCC have continued to make representation to Stirling planning when appropriate, and this service, as well as all other planning advice, has been given to us by Jim Ptolomey, who has kept us informed and involved with great skill, good sense and a large amount of work.

Jim is stepping down from his planning role next session, and we will hugely miss his wisdom and good humour, but wish him nothing but the best in his free time.

We look forward to continuing to work with him in his role with Killearn Trust.

Both Killearn Trust and KCFC continue to collaborate with us on achieving our Local Place Plan. The survey remains open, but we already have over 200 responses, and would like to give a huge 'thank you' here to everyone who has taken the time to complete it. In particular, the comments offered are giving us a real sense of both the joys and the frustrations of living in Killearn, and all this information will be invaluable in compiling a report for Stirling Council, but also for the village as a whole, to inform future directions and projects. We hope to be able to feed back the initial impressions and ideas with our presence at a stand in the Killearn Horticultural Show in August. It will also provide an opportunity for interaction and all views will be welcome. So if you have something to say, please come and see us there!

Everything we do is a collective effort to respond to the views of the village, and I am glad to have the opportunity to thank all of our committee for their fabulous support, as well as our partners in KT and KCFC. KCC will have the space to co-opt another two members next year, so please keep us in mind. We would love to have you join us.

On that note, the next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 September, in the Garden Room of the Village Hall, and on Zoom, but we will remain contactable as usual until then, via email (contactus@killearncc.org.uk).

Wishing everyone a happy and rejuvenating summer.

ELIZABETH JONES, KCC CHAIR



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With the conclusion of our winter dining/speaker nights and AGM at Ross Priory, our early summer programme started in April with our Drive-it-Day run, part of an annual national event to encourage those with interesting cars to take them out and show them to the general public, and especially to encourage interest in older vehicles. This year we set ourselves the joint aim not only of having an enjoyable day out, but also raising £1,000 for Strathcarron Hospice. In this we were very successful despite the rain. Thanks to participants from inside the club, selected invited clubs and generous members of the public, over £1,200 was raised and handed over to the hospice.



Wallis Weir, SC&SCC Treasurer (left) and Joe Norman, Organiser (right) handing over the SC&SCC donation to Claire Kennedy, Corporate Fundraiser

In May, some club members had a midweek overnigher at Stonefield Castle with outings either to Gigha and Achamore Gardens or down to Campbeltown and Carradale. This event was preceded by members attending a meet organised by SWTVC at the Kirkhouse in Strathblane that had a record attendance – 71 cars, 2 Indian motorcycles and 7 Lambretta scooters – followed

by a display of cars at Drymen Show, also supported by SWTVC, Glasgow Moggies and Stirling MG Club. Again a huge variety of cars were present, large and small, and also spanning 90 years. On a beautiful summer evening in June, we took advantage of the weather to take a scenic run to eat a fish supper on the seafront at Helensburgh. Our Car-BQ in July was well supported, with over 27 vehicles (and their passengers) participating. It was followed quickly by our second tour for pre-WWII vehicles, where 30 vintage cars, ranging from a 1912 Napier to a 1939 Rover drop-head coupé formed what may be the largest gathering of pre-WWII cars in Scotland this year.

As summer moves on, we have a further mix of midweek, weekend and evening events planned before our next winter programme starts in November. As we've said before, you don't actually need a special vehicle to join us, just an interest in motoring in general. If you'd like to join in, email to SC&SCC.Sec@gmail.com.

DOUG ASHWORTH, SECRETARY



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Broadband and Your Telephone

In 2021, I wrote an article in *Courier* Issue 50 (www.kcfc.co.uk/courier/Courier50.pdf), that attempted to bring readers' attention to the fact that BT were in the process of changing over the way we are used to using a telephone to an all-digital service delivered through an internet connection. The need for this change is primarily about cost (to the provider) and improved functionality (for the user). The timescale for the changeover to be complete – by the end of 2025 – now seems ambitious.

However be aware that scammers, purporting to be 'BT', are already trying to take advantage by calling you with offers of 'help' and trying to gain your confidence to alter your computer or sell you items or services. BT will never cold-call you this way.

For people who use an internet connection, this change should not be too difficult to manage or make a big difference to the way they make calls, plus existing phone units should still be usable. There may be some inconvenience where there is extension wiring in the premises to enable multiple handsets or where the router is located away from the most frequently used handset.

As well as telephones though, this change will also affect healthcare and alarm equipment and EPOS units. These will probably have to change to use a mobile connection rather than the landline.

For those who just use their landline for phone calls, they will have to take up some kind of internet-based unit or rely totally on a mobile. My advice is to talk to your current provider and ask what they plan to do to maintain their services to you.

Everyone should be aware that having a usable mobile phone will become almost essential as a backup, or alternative, to the landline.

At least for BT, as folk renew their contracts now, they will be switched over to the new service automatically. BT staff may not explain the full implications of the change to the customer, despite informing them about it happening.

BT is holding a series of roadshows over the summer, so I hope to be able to provide a more up-to-date picture, and clarify the implications. This overview at bt.com/about/all-ip is helpful.

I intend to keep Killlearn Community Council updated, as well as the *Courier*, and thus try to provide the most current information to residents and businesses in the village.

Remember, if you receive a cold call from someone saying they are from 'BT', just hang up.

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Killearn is a fantastic place to live – with a wonderful environment and some great activities and facilities. Many of these are managed by KCFC projects. On the following pages, we outline the background to the Killearn Community Futures Company and showcase some of the work going on in our village.

Back in 2001 the boundaries of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park were still under consideration and there was a possibility that Killearn would be within the Park. This did not come to pass, but one of the initiatives was the formation of ‘community futures’ companies in the area to develop and implement local action plans.



And so, in 2003, the Killearn Community Futures Company was founded. Its principal objectives were to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time activity; to improve the environment and to operate schemes of a charitable nature for the benefit of the community. The initial projects were to develop the Old Primary School as a community facility (which fell by the wayside); the Kingdom; the play park; the footpaths project and an ambition to set up a Youth Working Group.

As the organisation marks its 21st anniversary, the activities of KCFC have grown very considerably and encompass a wide range of projects which contribute positively to the quality of life in Killearn.

In 2004, KCFC’s turnover was £3,800; in 2022–23 it was over £100,000. It continues to thrive as a registered charity acting as an umbrella for new and existing ventures compatible with its aims. Over the past 21 years, the emphasis has moved from physical assets and capital projects to more environmental and cultural interests and concerns.

For further information or to join KCFC and support any of the groups’ activities, please visit the website or email convenor@kcfc.co.uk.

www.kcfc.co.uk

KILLEARN COURIER

In 2004, the *Courier* was a black and white, four-page newsletter produced by Killearn Community Council. It was relaunched in 2005 under the auspices of KCFC and now, 19 years on, you are reading its 59th issue – a 48-page, full colour, community magazine published three times a year. Run by volunteers and supported by loyal advertisers, the *Courier* is distributed free to every household in the parish, as well as being on sale at selected outlets. A highly successful publication, the *Courier* has won awards and been able to make significant donations to other community activities.

COLOURFUL KILLEARN



Killearn is blooming... Colourful Killearn seeks to brighten up public spaces in the village with displays of flowers, both in containers and beds. Volunteers plant up 50 half-barrels twice a year, 12 wall-top troughs and look after eight flower beds, plus (as of recently) the War Memorial. The group also puts up and decorates the village Christmas tree at the Kirk. All our work is funded by donations and fundraising activities, and carried out by volunteers.

We get many kind words of gratitude for our flowers, but are often frustrated by the weather and occasional attention of both deer and vandals, who find our displays irresistible!



TY FUTURES COMPANY



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1st Anniversary

KILLEARN HERITAGE TRAIL

Killearn is a picturesque village, rich in history.



Stories – of its people, their lives and traditions – are woven into the fabric of Scotland and the world beyond. A community project promoting enjoyment and appreciation of our built and natural environment, the Heritage Trail, was launched in 2021 with eight interpretation boards leading round the village’s major sites of interest including the Buchanan Monument, the Old Kirk and the designed landscape in the Glen, together with a website packed with fascinating facts, more detailed information, photographs and associated documents.



The project is now working on a Natural History section of the website, accompanied by community engagement events.

killearnheritage.org.uk

KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL

Killearn Village Hall sits in the centre of the village, with amazing



views over the Glebe towards Loch Lomond.

The hall is at the centre of village life, welcoming locals and visitors to the Kitchen Window café and hosting groups for children, young people, the elderly, mums and toddlers, as well as charities, sport, hobby and interest clubs. The hall also provides an idyllic location for weddings, party people and businesses – its doors are always open!

Until 2013, the Village Hall was the property of Stirling Council, but in order to be eligible for major grants to fund its £1 million refurbishment and development, ownership was transferred to KCFC and it is now managed by the Village Hall Operations Committee – a lively, highly committed group of volunteers.

www.killearnvillagehall.co.uk



ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

Very much helping to preserve the past, the group was established to collect artefacts, documents, photographs, historic maps, etc., within the village, forming a local information source. A substantial, and steadily increasing, archive now exists in physical and digital form. This includes a secure repository for the archives of local organisations which no longer exist, such as the Inner Wheel and SWRI. The documentation held has been used to answer family history enquiries received from as far away as the United States and South Africa. There are display cabinets and access to reference books and materials at the Village Hall.



An American gentleman, following a visit from his sons to visit family graves in Killearn old graveyard, wrote: ‘My wife and I are so grateful to you for making such an effort on behalf of our sons. Once they arrived home after being away for four months, they didn’t first show us their souvenirs from their travels abroad, but rather the family history you compiled. It is truly remarkable that you dedicated time to conduct research and print out a booklet. I must express my admiration for all your efforts.’

EVENTS GROUP

In 2010, 2012 and 2014, the village organised the Killearn Hoolie – a ten-day celebration of village life including the first Killearn Beer Festival and 10K (now successful separate groups), community events such as street football, a fête and a Gala Dance in a marquee on the Glebe. That subsequently morphed into Hoolie Dances in the Village Hall and, more recently, a very popular Burns Night. The structure still exists for anyone who would like to organise an event for the community – do get in touch.

SUSTAINABLE KILLEARN

It can be hard to navigate our way round the sustainability agenda – what can we all be doing to help support the climate and build a better future? Sustainable Killearn is working across broad themes – food, ecological, resource, energy, transport and wellbeing – to highlight the choices we can all make in the way we live. Some are things we can do as individuals or as families, some are things we can do as a village, some will be our village playing its part in the wider community. ‘As a village we will not stop the climate crisis single handed, but as a community, we can move from being part of the problem to being part of the solution.’



www.sustainablekillearn.org



CYCLING KILLEARN

Do you want to know more about cycling, want to meet others who cycle or learn more about local routes? Cycling Killearn aims to promote cycling and build an inclusive, supportive cycling community in and around the village. They were delighted to receive a ‘Cycling Friendly Community’ silver award from Cycling Scotland.



A resident commented, ‘The work you have put into making Cycling Killearn a success, not just e-bike hire, but all the other initiatives you are covering (Buddy scheme, Dr Bike, workshops, children’s led rides, social events etc) is inspiring.’

www.cycling-killearn.org



FIREWORKS GROUP

The Fireworks Display in the glen every November aims to bring a bit of excitement to the village as winter approaches. An enthusiastic group of volunteers



organise the event, which has been able to support local youth organisations from the fundraising on the night by personal donations and with the income from local business advertising in the promotional brochure.

PATHS GROUP

The Paths Group aims to support our local community by providing accessible and enjoyable routes around the village, while preserving Killearn’s environment, and considering residents and landowners.

We recently combined maintenance and project activities, forming a new team to build on all the great work achieved to date. Thanks to Killearn’s willing volunteers, many paths have been maintained over the years, supporting attractive throughways such as Killearn park and the Glen.

Plans have been developed for routes from the new housing development at the old Killearn Hospital site and between Killearn and Balfron. We are extremely grateful for all the landowner support received to date for these initiatives – it’s important to keep the whole community on board! We are pleased to report recent landowner permission to address core path erosion.

If you would like to get involved in this or any of our activities, we would be glad to hear from you. Please contact Jan c/o convenor@kcfc.co.uk.

WOODLAND CEMETERY

When the cemetery was consecrated in October 2007, it consisted simply of laid-out burial plots and a vehicular turning circle. There was nowhere to sit and reflect, nor a place to commemorate



a departed loved one. Four years later, a group was formed by KCFC to raise funds, and a number of generous local donations, together with grants from the Paul Trust and Stirling Council Community Pride Fund, enabled a plan to be developed to remedy this. A circular stone wall was located in the centre of the turning circle with seats inside bearing small memorial plaques and a large stone as a centre piece. The West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association agreed to build the wall as a training project. This year, KCFC decided that this should be commemorated by a plaque on the centre stone (see also the article on page 39).

The cemetery has evolved into a much appreciated resting place for those who wish to choose this environmentally friendly form of burial. A short history of the woodland cemetery can be found at: killearnheritage.org.uk/category/features/articles.

WOODLANDS GROUP

One of KCFC’s original projects, The Kingdom is an oasis of mixed woodland between The Oaks, Chestnut Avenue and Lampson Road; maintained by volunteers.

www.kcfc.co.uk

The Wine List in Autumn

Autumn is a great time to explore new and interesting wines, as the weather begins to cool and heartier meals take centre stage. While summertime is often dominated by rosé, autumn sees a return to the comforts of a warm red to go with the changing flavours and aromas of the season. If you are looking to try something new or return to an old favourite, here are three interesting wines to consider trying.

Rioja reserva

As the leaves turn from green to gold, the earthy and robust flavours of a Rioja reserva make it an ideal choice. This Spanish red wine is made primarily from tempranillo grapes and is aged for a minimum of three years, with at least one year spent in oak barrels. The extended ageing process gives Rioja reserva its characteristic complexity, with notes of dried fruit, leather and spice. This wine pairs beautifully with hearty stews, roasted root vegetables and grilled meats, making it a versatile option for autumn dining.

Oregon pinot noir

Explore the elegant and expressive pinot noirs produced in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Known for their vibrant acidity and nuanced flavours, Oregon pinot noirs are a



wonderful choice. With notes of ripe red and black fruits, earthy undertones and a hint of herbal complexity, these wines are well-suited to accompany seasonal dishes such as roasted game birds, wild mushroom risotto and cranberry-glazed pork. The cool climate of the valley imparts a distinctive freshness to these wines, making them a refreshing counterpoint to the changing weather.

Alsace riesling

For a white wine option that captures the essence of autumn, consider exploring expressive and aromatic riesling from

France's Alsace region. These wines are known for their vibrant acidity, floral aromas and distinctive mineral character. In the cooler temperatures of autumn, Alsace riesling shines alongside a variety of flavours, from spicy curries and Thai dishes to roasted butternut squash and apple-stuffed pork loin. The versatility of Alsace riesling makes it a compelling choice for transitioning from the lighter fare of summer to heartier meals.

Whether you're enjoying a cosy evening at home or gathering with friends and family, these wines offer a really lovely way to savour the distinctive flavours and aromas of the colder nights.

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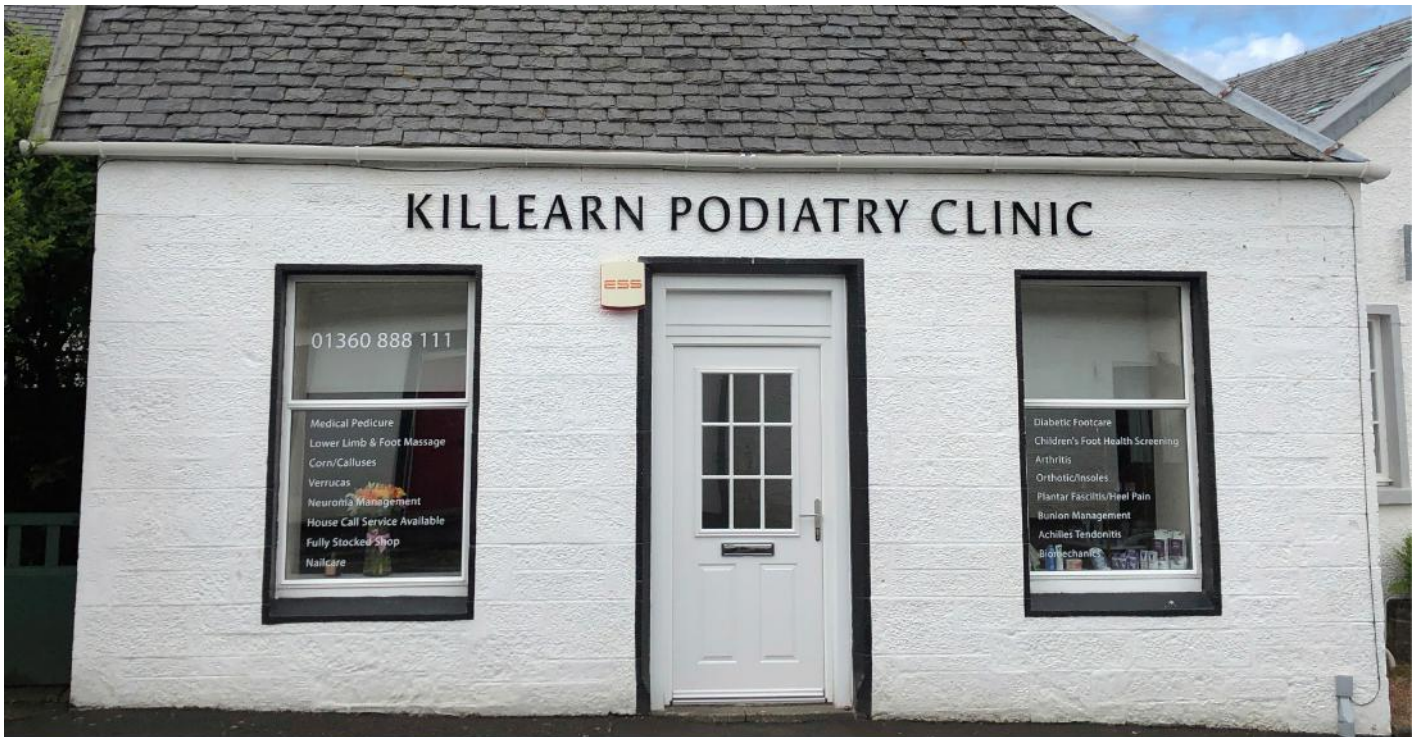
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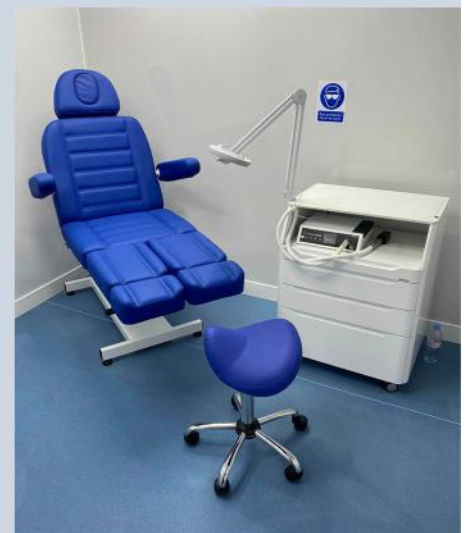
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Killlearn, G63 9RJ

01360 888 111

jennifer@killlearnpodiatry.com



New Business Afoot in Killearn

April saw the arrival of a new business in Main Street with the opening of Killearn Podiatry Clinic. The clinic is the passion of Jennifer Malley, a registered member of the Royal College of Podiatrists and registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCP).

Feet are our main mode of mobility and transport, so keeping them healthy is important and often much overlooked. The foot, ankle and leg healthcare provided by podiatrists can keep people more mobile and pain free, and regular visits can prevent problems from occurring. Jennifer loves being a podiatrist, helping and caring for people and says, 'Relieving a person of pain or discomfort gives me a huge feeling of satisfaction. It is a highly rewarding career.'



Brought up and educated in Balfron, Jenny went on to study at Glasgow Caledonian University, graduating with an honours degree in podiatry medicine. She spent over 10 years working in the NHS where she gained a vast amount of experience in all areas of podiatry, including diabetes, rheumatology, wound management and biomechanics. It was only after the birth of her daughter that she moved into the private sector. She will already be known to many, having been based in Balfron, and was delighted when the opportunity arose to run her own clinic in Killearn.

Jennifer took great pride in designing the clinic, creating a welcoming, comfortable waiting room and state-of-the-art clinical area, including a separate decontamination room. With three treatment rooms there is scope to expand, which is something that she is working towards. Living and working in Killearn with her family is something Jenny loves and fully appreciates. She also greatly appreciates the support of her mum, Liz, who is her receptionist.

A visit to Killearn Podiatry Clinic should be 'relaxing, a time to switch off and feel pampered and in many cases a means of living pain-free independent lives. We take great pride in delivering a high standard of professional care to our patients.' Jenny offers a home visit service for those unable to attend the clinic.

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52 Years of Service to the NHS



Killearn's Carol Crawford has recently retired after a remarkable 52-year career in nursing: one for every card in the pack!

Carol embarked on her three-year general nurse training at Stobhill Hospital in 1972 (at a very tender age, of course) and she worked there until 1977. She then she moved

to Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital (colloquially known as 'Rotten Row') for her midwifery training, before taking up a new post back at Stobhill as a sister in coronary care – a speciality she really enjoyed.

Carol married Stephen in 1978, and the following year trained as a health visitor at Glasgow Caledonian University before beginning 21 years of service in this specialty, firstly in Strathblane and then Killearn. Carol was based in Killearn Health Centre with Drs Campbell, Davies and Elms – indeed she was there when the new building opened – and tended to many mothers and babies, as well as running health clinics over the years. Of all her different roles, this was Carol's favourite and she still sees young people in the village (now in their 20s, 30s or 40s) and exclaims, 'You were one of my babies!'

In a change of direction, Carol moved into public health in 2001 as a health protection nurse, working

from the Forth Valley HQ at Carseview, Stirling. Her focus was identifying and managing outbreaks of infectious diseases. She studied for an MSc in public health at Queen Margaret University, and in 2014 became manager of the Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses Managed Care Network, the main focus being a national

campaign to eliminate Hepatitis C by March 2024. This effort was, of course, overtaken by events, and during the Covid pandemic in 2020, Carol and team played a vital role in setting up testing services, tracing contacts and monitoring the spread of the disease.

Post-pandemic, she has worked part-time from home until June this year, when she decided to spend more time with her family (she has two grandchildren starting P1 at Killearn in August) and relax a little.

Thank you, Carol. A year's service for every week of the year – that is some career!



Carol is fourth from the right in this 'hokey cokey' shot of a nurses' fundraiser.

It's the only one with her in uniform (they weren't allowed to bring uniforms home – they were laundered at work for infection control).

NH

ALEXANDER STEWART MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
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Ice Cream Pompom Bunting

You will need:

- * Heavy craft paper for cones
- * String or ribbon for stringing bunting
- * Wool for pompoms (double knitting is best)
- * Strong thread (crochet yarn) to tie pompom
- * 4 Card pompom templates. I used a 4.5cm pattern.
- * 4 paper clips
- * PVA glue or double-sided sellotape
- * Sharp scissors, a punch or large threading needle (to string cones)



To find different sized templates and more pictures, search pompoms at www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com.

To make the pompoms

1. Cut out and pair up the pompom templates into two sets of two (fig. 1). Starting at one side, wrap the wool round the curved part of the template, working evenly across until the full arch is filled (fig. 2).



2. Continue backwards and forwards until the whole arch is thick and filled (about 9m of double knitting wool). Do this for both sets (fig. 3).
3. Now you open up the lower flaps until they splay to form 'feet', and paperclip both sets together (fig. 4).



4. Easing the scissors between the card, cut round the full arch on both sides. Take your time and try not to twist the templates.
5. Threading the crochet yarn between the cardboard pairs, wrap it all the way round the pom-pom circle and tie off tightly with a double knot. Leave a tail of yarn to attach to the bunting.
6. You can now remove the paper clips and gently remove the cardboard pompom templates, setting them aside for reuse (fig. 5).
7. Your pom-pom will probably need a little trimming with scissors to get it into a neat ball (fig. 6). Make a few pompoms in ice cream colours.



Now you can work on your cones

- a. Cut a circle 20cm across out of your card/craft paper. (I backed mine with hessian, to make a 'wafer' pattern.)
- b. Fold and then cut your circle into quarters, and curl each one into a cone, sticking the edge down using glue or double-sided sellotape.
- c. Once dry, and making sure the join is at the back, punch two small holes in either side.
- d. Thread the cones onto your string or ribbon using the holes and knot the ends. It may be an idea to put a little weight, like a dried pea or clay in the bottom to help keep the cone upright.
- e. Pull the twine into a loop above the top of the cone and tie the pompom on to the bunting string or ribbon using the ends of the crochet cotton. Tie this tightly enough to sit close to the string or ribbon, while still being able to slide and reposition your cones.
- f. Stretch out your ice cream cone bunting and hang it where you want it to look its best.



Enjoy your 'ice cream cones'!

HEATHER WRIGHT FOR STRATHENDRICK STITCHERS

Sunshine on Killearn for the BeerFest



Given the appalling weather this summer, it was nothing short of remarkable that – once again – Killearn’s Annual Beer Festival (the 11th to date), experienced fantastic weather on the day, as well as for the prep and clear up, too.

Since the festival is targeted not just at beer fans, but also at the wider community, it was great to see such a great turnout from both locals and families, with the 450 glasses selling out midway through the afternoon. As always, profits will be distributed to local charities, events and causes.

As with last year, having so many volunteers helping reduced the overall burden and made for an enjoyable and fun time. So, thanks again to everyone who gave of their

time, as well as Alice and Mark for allowing us to host the event at the Old Mill.

The selection of beers on offer involved retaining some old favourites from the Durty Brewing and Five Kingdoms Brewery. However, we are always keen on introducing new beers from other breweries, so this year we welcomed Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing, Designed and Built in the Scottish Borders, and Not That California Brewing Company. No one can accuse them of forgettable names!

So, finally, thanks again for your help, encouragement and attendance. We look forward to seeing you again next year on Saturday, 7 June 2025.

MARK WHITE

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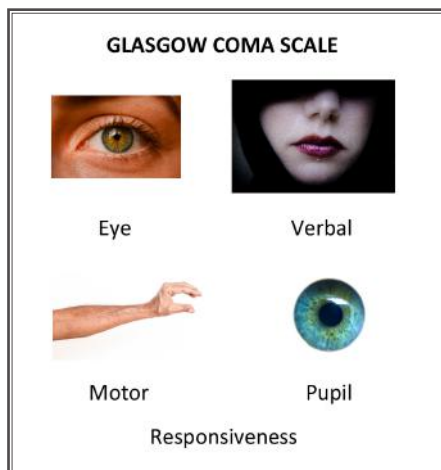
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50th Anniversary of the Glasgow Coma Scale

During the 1960s, assessment and management of head injuries became a topic of interest. Killlearn Hospital was a specialist centre for neurosurgery until it moved to the purpose-built Institute of Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital in 1972 and Killlearn closed. Wards at the Institute used to have numbers and local names such as ‘Killlearn’ (the ITU, Ward 61), ‘Drymen’, ‘Balfron’ and ‘Buchlyvie’ – until the names were dropped.

In 1974, two leading clinicians from the Institute and Glasgow University Medical School, Bryan Jennett and Graham Teasdale, developed the Glasgow Coma Scale



(GCS) – a method of assessing and communicating the level of consciousness of patients with an acute brain injury. GCS scores eye, verbal and motor reactions combined with pupil activity, and guides initial

decision making and monitors trends in responsiveness.

Doctors and nurses welcomed this simple, standardised approach. It was widely adopted in neurology, neurosurgery and A&E departments across the world, enabling global research and collaboration. It is still in use in over 80 countries and translated into many languages.

The introduction of this hugely beneficial innovation was marked by a 50th anniversary dinner at the Glasgow Radisson Blue Hotel on 28 June this year. Professor Teasdale was guest of honour, and a number of clinicians and nurses from Killlearn and the surrounding area were present to enjoy the evening. NH

CPR can save a life – even without formal training

Last summer, a Killlearn resident was faced with having to give CPR without ever having been shown how. He says, ‘Holiday turned to horror for me within a few seconds. I was in France and walking with a friend when, in mid-sentence, and in a remote part of town, he collapsed beside me with what I was sure was a cardiac arrest.

Faced with this, I had an instant choice – do I try to administer CPR or let my friend die in front of me without at least attempting to save him. There was no choice!

So, within a few seconds I am performing CPR compressions trying to keep to the rhythm of the Bee Gees *Staying Alive* (which I recalled was the advice from something I’d seen on TV). Immediately, the doubts surface – maybe CPR is not the right thing to do; where exactly should I be applying pressure? Do I keep going continuously or should it be intermittent?

Above all I’m thinking two things. I wish I was anywhere else but here, and I wish I’d taken training so that I’d know what I was meant to be doing. At that point I got lucky, someone had spotted us from the balcony of his apartment and had called for an ambulance. A passer-by then offered to spell me doing compressions. I was delighted to get her support – it’s hard work, and with no idea how long the ambulance would take to reach us, I wasn’t sure how long I could keep going. Having someone to share the responsibility also helped give me a boost.

As it turned out, it took the ambulance 20 minutes to arrive. For 10 of these minutes, I was convinced that my pal was dead and that my amateur efforts had let him down. Fortunately, I remembered another instruction



from TV, “whatever you do, don’t stop until medical help arrives”.

The medics applied defib paddles, and the relief and elation when my friend raised his left arm will stay with me always.

Weirdly, at that point I felt he had saved me just as much as I’d saved him. Had the outcome been different, I would have felt enormous guilt that my amateurish efforts might have cost him his life.

I’m pleased to report that after a week in intensive care in a hospital facing Monaco marina and a further six weeks in another, slightly less exclusive French hospital, my pal returned home to Scotland to convalesce.

So, CPR can make a difference.’



Trossachs Search and Rescue runs training in CPR and Defib Use. Please contact Nick (07860 700928) if you would be interested in attending a local class.



It's never too early to sign up for a Christmas Show!



It's that time of year again when Christmas Show rehearsals are getting underway, and this year, it's the magical story of *The Snow Queen*.

This is an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about good and evil, which tells of a young girl's quest to find her best friend and free him from the icy spell that's been cast on him by the Snow Queen. The story pays more than a little homage to *Frozen* and is packed full of music, song, dance and suspense!

There will be eight performances as usual, including two Saturday matinées, and if tickets sell as well as last year, they'll all be gone by the beginning of November!

To make sure you don't miss out, sign up to our blog at www.fintrydrama.org.uk/ subscribe and follow us on facebook @FintryADS, and you'll get advance notice of when tickets are going on sale, plus other updates.



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Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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

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Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA

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enquiries@rsha.org.uk
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- Purchase of a new van: The Food Train



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Further details visit our website news and events page:

www.rsha.org.uk/community-donation-fund/



Providing affordable homes: sustaining rural communities

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Registered with the Scottish Housing Regulator HAL232

Runners Stride Out at the Killearn 10k

Over 180 runners participated in the Killearn 10k on Saturday, 1 June, and the organisers were thrilled with the event. Thanks to all the runners, our committee, marshals and helpers, the people of Killearn for supporting the event so well, and our sponsors: TLA Subsea, West Homes, The Old Mill Killearn, Killearn Pharmacy, Heron House Early Years, Town and Country Designs and Home is Best.

Before the 10k, a sold-out field of over 200 ran the Killearn Mile, a fantastic event coordinated by Jackie Hawkins in partnership with Active Stirling. It is great to see so many families encouraging their youngsters to enjoy running. The smiles at the start and finish line say it all.



Entries for the 10k, supported by main sponsor TLA Subsea, sold out in record time back in December. It's a popular race for a reason, with the best route, usually great weather and a fabulous community day for both locals and visitors to the village.

The elite runners set off at a fast pace, with the leader reaching the turning point in record time. Gregor Yates (Inverclyde Athletics Club) led the race, winning with a course record of 32:45, five minutes ahead of the competition. Jamie Auldsmith (Portobello Running Club) finished second in 37:44, and Matt Williamson came in third at 39:06. In the Women's race, Rhona Fraser finished first (42:50), followed by Deborah Gray (44:54) and Hannah McAuley (45:04).

There were impressive performances in all of the age categories. Prizes were awarded to U20, V50, V65, G63 and Killearn FC.

U20 winners were Cameron Holt (48:54) and Orla Stewart (57:16), both first-timers to 10k racing. Neil Gallagher won the MV50 category (45:12), and Claire Wharton (Bellahouston Road Runners) won the FV50 category (46:22). The V65 award went to Brian Andrews

(54:17). G63 prizes went to Gregor Yates and Hannah McAuley, and the Killearn Football Club prize went to Stuart MacDonald in a superfast time of 43:43. Strong performances from the prize and category winners, and congratulations to them all.

Congratulations also go to all of our finishers. Just completing this challenging course is an accomplishment. So many of you run this race year in year out, and your ongoing support is very much appreciated. If you were watching the race this year and fancy trying it out, make sure to be quick on the entry in December! We'd love to see you next year.

We have many people to thank for this year's success and while writing this piece it strikes me what a galvanising community day this really is. First up thanks to UK Athletics Chair Ian Beattie, who started us off and presented the prizes. Ian does so much for the running community, it is brilliant to have him as part of our event. Thanks to Colin Banks on the mic at the end, he really encouraged all of the runners from the first to last finisher.

Thanks to all of our photographers – David McKay, Megan at Lens a Hand Photography, Alastair Mair and Kay Roxby. They helped us capture the day perfectly. We know that runners and families love reliving the moment and we are so grateful to have so many talented photographers on our doorstep.

A big thanks to local farmer Graham Nicolson for helping us with the water station on the pipe track.



Thanks also to Stevie Fraser, Sandra Beattie and Carol Murray for risk assessing and measuring the route.

Well done to Jill French and her team of marshals. There are too many to list individually, but we couldn't do it without you all.

As well as our event sponsors, we are so grateful to a number

of local businesses who kindly donated prizes as well as their time and resources to support our race. Many thanks indeed to Co-op Killearn, Country Cycles, Trossachs Search and Rescue, Tunnocks, Killearn Kids Hub, Turnip the Beet, Lynne McVicar Hair, YogAnni, The But and Ben, Aizle Active, Kirkhouse Inn and Borthwick Forrest.

Finally, our thanks to Killearn Community Council, Police Scotland, Killearn Community Futures Group, Killearn for All and *Killearn Courier*.

The sun shone for us again this year, what a great day it was. Looking forward to next year already!

JUDE HOLT

Tours, Awards and a New Coach – the Future is Bright for Strathendrick

The 2023–24 season finished on a high for Strathendrick Rugby Club: new landmarks reached, successful tours and multiple awards.

The Men's 1st XV finished 5th in West Region League Division 2 – a very creditable result. A new senior Men's coach, Eddie Roach, has been appointed to lead the squad next season.

Ciera Campbell, Seniors' Coach for past three years, has moved on to coach newly promoted Bishopton, but she will continue to coach the SRFC Women's team. Strathendrick Ladies, having played Touch Rugby on Monday evenings over the past three seasons have now fulfilled – and enjoyed – their first full contact games.



SRFC Women's Touch Team



SRFC Women's Team

The Minis, after a busy season, held another hugely successful charity tournament at Fintry in April, hosting 10 clubs and raising funds for local hospices.

In May and June, several of the age group teams enjoyed fantastic foreign tours. The Boys U18s travelled to Stockholm, the Boys U16s to Amsterdam and the Girls U14–16s to Gothenburg. Touring is a superb way of bonding with teammates, but also making new friends and seeing different cultures. It is a really enjoyable aspect of rugby.

The club has run successful primary school festivals, transition programmes from P7 to secondary school, and an end-of-season development programme for U20s. All this work has been recognised as the club and its members received a number of awards.

Steven McCooley deservedly won the Active Stirling Volunteer of the Year, and SRFC was awarded Club Engagement Club of the Year.

Strathendrick's Murrin Thomson (pictured right) was awarded the SRU National Young Person's Award at Murrayfield Stadium.

Finally, the Girls U14s won the Balfron High School Team of the Year.

Some year! Roll on 2024–25.

www.strathendrickrfc.com



NH

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Weddings and Events in Killearn Village Hall

Sarah and her team look forward to hosting your wedding or event, surrounded by beautiful scenery, with top-quality food and drink and an efficient and personal service.

Bunting's Out – Summer in Full Swing at Killearn Tennis Club

It has been an incredibly busy period at the club. As the weather improved during springtime, the club was able to upgrade the floodlights to low-energy LEDs as part of a long-term plan to improve the facilities and reduce our carbon footprint. This upgrade was possible as a result of generous funds provided by anonymous donors in the local community. We are so grateful for their support.

We also launched a new club website which acts as a home to all our key information. The new address is **clubspark.lta.org.uk/KillearnTennisClub**.

The annual Open Day at the end of May was a huge success. It was attended by over 100 guests, and a number of new members signed up on the day. It was terrific to see so many families and new faces in the sunshine, enjoying their first experience of tennis. The event was supported by Active Stirling, and once again George Douglas did a brilliant job on the popular BBQ, while our coaching team (10outofTennis) ensured every young player had fun and learned a few basics on court.

The club continues to steadily attract new members and we hope to see more people enjoying the club during the autumn. Guests are always welcome; there is a small visitor's fee which can be paid online or in cash using the honesty box.

In June, we held a Committee vs Rest of the Club friendly match, which was closely contested with some great banter. The Committee just edged the result, but there wasn't much in it...

On 30 June, we hosted our Wimbledon Warm-Up



Committee vs Members Friendly



A vibrant Open Day



BBQ chef George with grandson Rory

event, featuring social tennis, Pimms, strawberries and cream.

Summer camps for juniors will run through July and August. To learn more about our coaching programme (which

runs through the year), please follow Killearn Tennis Club on Facebook or visit **10outofTennis.com**. Sessions are open to members and non-members alike. The annual membership fee for juniors is between £20–£40 depending on age, so it's worth considering joining

the club, as members enjoy a discounted rate for coaching. Simply get in touch via **killearntennis@hotmail.com** if you are interested.

Our club championships are currently underway and will conclude on the 8 September. The Finals Day will also include a special celebration to mark our centenary year, so look out for promotions of that event.

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Curling Sweep Up

The 2023/24 season finished with a major external success and several enjoyable final club competitions.

The Mixed Spring League was closely fought. Fiona Glass's team of Sally Macfarlane, Howard Royston and Liz Paterson won by 1 end from John Macfarlane's team after finishing level on 9 points. The Mixed Closing Bonspiel was won by Fiona Glass's team of Jane Weir, Mario Cannavina and Liz Paterson, who won 5 out of the 6 ends played. Afterwards, we adjourned to Springkerse View for a drink. The Mixed Club held the Annual General Meeting in April at the Gargunnoch Inn. The Mixed Curlers of the Year were John Macfarlane and Liz Paterson. Helen Watson, a long-serving past secretary, was made an honorary member.

The Ladies Section have played two leagues since the last report. The Lomond Quach league was won by Gill Smith's team of Kay Bidwell, Anne Lochhead and Helen McKinnell who won all three of their matches. The Rowan Salver league was a win for Jinty Halley's team of (again) Anne Lochhead, Kay Bidwell and Helen McKinnell who scored 7 out of 8 points. The Ladies Closing Bonspiel was played by six teams. The winners were Viv Taylor's team of Anne Lochhead and Patricia Brown who won 4 out of 5 ends. Easter eggs were drawn for and won by Fiona Glass, Gill Smith and Patricia Brown.

The Bonspiel was followed by lunch at the Lion and Unicorn and the Annual General Meeting. Heather Burns finished her term as President and Jane Weir succeeded. Deborah Macken became Secretary. Curler of the Year was Liz Paterson.



The Ladies Pairs competition was rescheduled due to a lack of ice on a particularly cold day in January! It was played on the last day of curling. Also on the ice were a Swiss touring team and the Old Fellows CC, so we were treated to a piper and national anthems at the start. Our competition was very close, with two pairs winning 5 ends and two pairs winning 4 ends. Jane Weir and Anne MacKay were victorious.

In external fixtures, the club lost in the Low Road final of the Province Knockout to Buccaneers.

A Strathendrick Ladies team of Fiona Glass, Jean Leitch, Mary MacDonald and Jane Weir won the Stirling Ladies Open against teams from Stirling and other ice rinks.

The team of Fiona Glass, Mary MacDonald, Jane Weir and Di Christie came second in the Arnold Seftor Stirling Ladies Branch competition

Jane and Kim McLaren were in the Stirling team which came second in the Low Road of the national ladies competition for the Henderson Bishop Trophy.

Strathendrick Ladies hosted the Winnock Shield, which is an invitational bonspiel to raise money for charity. We struggled this year due to a lack of entrants. The competition will be run by Stirling Curling Group in future. Some £330 was donated to Strathcarron Hospice.

For more information about our curling activities, please visit www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk. We are a very friendly club and are starting to run social events again. Our curling standards cater for all abilities, so if you are interested and want some exercise in a friendly atmosphere, contact Tony Flisch (860580) or Gill Smith (550726).

KPS Win Through to the National POP Lacrosse Championships

After having done well in the local tournament, Killearn Primary won the Scottish Schools Lacrosse competition and so qualified for the National POP Lacrosse Championships held at Birmingham University in June.

Pupils promptly committed to fundraising for the trip – through bake sales and a triathlon – ably assisted by supportive parents. Seven players and two staff travelled by train to Birmingham and stayed overnight in the Premier Inn and enjoyed dinner in Nando's.

After an 'early night', the squad took to the pitch the next day playing in one of four pools of four schools with some of the best lacrosse teams in the UK. Killearn did themselves, their coaches, parents and school proud and won Bronze in the Plate Competition. The team's behaviour and conduct both on and off the pitch was impeccable.

Five parents were able to make the trip to support the team – which was particularly welcome when trains from Euston were cancelled on the way home. A weary but elated group made

it back to Killearn eventually! Well done Killearn Primary School U11s.





The way we have started this year's Forth and Endrick League campaign, we really should be re-opening Killlearn Hospital rather than building new houses on its grounds! Yes, injuries have been the biggest challenge for Killlearn FC, along with some pretty decent opposition.

However, the guys have stuck together, and a combination of grit, determination and the extra help of some young and older players to bolster the squad has seen us hold our own and sit mid table in the league.

On the cup front, we have performed well and are still competing for trophies while also taking part in the wider Scottish Welfare League cups for the first time. So far we have hosted and visited teams from the Greenock Welfare League and had a trip to Edinburgh, an enjoyable addition to our season and one that the boys and our supporters have enjoyed.

Off the pitch we welcomed Endrick Vets as our away kit sponsor, in addition to our continued support from The Old Mill Inn.

This income combined with the success of our weekly '59' club and support from other local businesses such as ATC and SMac Joinery, means the club remains healthy on the financial front.

Thank you to all who support us, both through investment and attending our matches. It's always appreciated.

Here's to a successful second half of the season. All our up-to-date news and match info can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Or if that's not your thing, you can usually find one of the team around the village or in the Old Mill, and we are always happy to have a chat and fill you in on what's happening.

COLIN BANKS

Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Modern Stage Taught to children from 2½ years

Classes are held in the Killlearn Village Hall and in the Edmonstone Hall, Blanefield.

The new session will start in the w/c 26 August 2024.

Registration is on Tuesday 20 August in the Edmonstone Hall, 3:00pm to 5:00pm, or send me an email or text message.

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New Plaque Unveiled in the Woodland Cemetery

A new plaque has appeared in the Woodland Cemetery showing how the memorial seating area came into being. A brief history of the project is given in the article on Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) on page 24. A plaque on the central stone featured an appropriate poem by Pam Ayes, but there was no indication in the cemetery who designed and built the project, or how the money was raised.

This year, KCFC decided that it was time that this omission was rectified, therefore a new plaque was commissioned to be placed on the stone. The board of KCFC particularly wanted to record the contribution made by the West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association and the help given by their chairman, Norman Muir, in project design, sourcing the stone and supervision of the build.



The new plaque was unveiled by the four WC Group members. It is situated at the back of the memorial, opposite the Pam Ayres poem.

Please note that although KCFC was the driving force behind the creation of the Woodland Cemetery, it is actually run by Stirling Council. For more information search 'Cemeteries' at stirling.gov.uk or phone 01786 404040.

PW



WC Group Members: Jenny and Peter Wilks, Alice Bell, Jenifer Barrett

Condolences

In addition to the obituaries on the following pages, it is with sadness that the *Courier* has learned of the deaths of the following residents and former long-time residents of Killearn:

Eddie Bell
Eric Graham
Ian Pretzel
Ian Patrick

Irene Sloan
Willie Brownlee
Russell Brown
Mike Garey

Our sympathy is extended to the families and friends of all who have recently been lost to our community.

Jamie Pearson

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Advanced booking required. Please contact us for more information.

Alastair Douglas 1937 – 2023

Alastair was born in Dumfries, the youngest of six siblings. As a youngster he was a keen footballer, of 10 getting into trouble for playing on the holy day! He remembered being teased by his older sisters as a child, and could even recall travelling to see family in Airdrie during World War II and being bundled into an air raid shelter.

Following his time at Dumfries Academy, Alastair attended Glasgow University, gaining a first in physics. In Glasgow, he met Rena and they married in Coatbridge in 1965, moving to Branziert Road where Alastair would remain for the rest of his life.

Gillian was born in 1966 and Alison in 1969. Alastair was a teacher at Woodside Secondary School where he would spend his working life, becoming Assistant Headteacher in the 1970s. Family holidays were spent in the south of France.

In 1979 Rena died of cancer. Alastair took great care of Rena during her illness.

At Woodside, he went on to meet Judith, who would



become his life partner for 36 years until his death.

Although diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Alastair was living at home, physically fit and enjoying outings every week. He loved books, especially history, facts and poetry. He had a lifelong love of music and was a skilled mouth organist. He was a loving grandfather to Meena and Jamal, whom he and Judith often entertained during school holidays.

Alastair was very proud of his garden, cutting the grass himself until well in to his 80s. He was a long-standing member of Killearn

Badminton Club and could often be seen cycling up to Balfron in his younger days.

Over the last few years Alastair lost Killearn friends John Mitchell, Tom Maconachie and Eric Drew. More recently he appreciated the support offered by Home is Best. After a short illness, Alastair died peacefully in Forth Valley Royal Hospital. His family remember a humble man with a dry sense of humour and a lot of love for those close to him.

GILLIAN DOUGLAS

John (Iain) Moreland OBE 1931 – 2024

Iain Moreland was born in Lanarkshire at the height of the Depression and mass unemployment. He attended Dalziel High School in Motherwell, where he met his future wife May. He then attended the University of Glasgow, graduating in mechanical engineering. Various jobs in England included one at Fairey Aviation, where he was part of the design team of Fairey Delta II (the first plane to exceed 100mph in level flight) as well as a spell as the Motherwell Bridge representative in the GEC consortium on the design of the Hunterston A nuclear power station. This was followed by a transfer to Motherwell on construction. He became a main board director of Motherwell Bridge.

With the advent of North Sea offshore oil, he joined Britoil in Glasgow. Iain was very involved in the construction of the Clyde (latterly BP) offshore production platform, where he was responsible for all offshore partnership oil production.

In 1976, Iain was appointed to the board of Cumbernauld New Town, serving until its dissolution in 1997. He was instrumental in helping a young Bill Forsyth find locations to make his Bafta award-winning



film *Gregory's Girl*. It was for his work attracting businesses to Cumbernauld that he was awarded an OBE.

After retiring from full-time employment, he was appointed to the board of Scottish Nuclear and latterly as Chairman of the Nuclear Safety Committee of British Energy.

May and Iain had a long happy marriage with three children, Jimmy, Meg and Johnny, and delighting as grandparents in their three grandsons, Sam, Jack and Andrew. They had a lifelong love of the arts, particularly music and opera, spending holidays abroad in pursuit of Wagner's

Ring Cycle.

After 30 years living in the West End of Glasgow, May and Iain chose to move to Killearn where they were both soon absorbed in the community. Iain sang with the Strathendrick Singers, was an enthusiastic member of the curling club and enjoyed hill walking. He also served on the Community Council and was a member of the Village Hall committee. Iain was the prime mover in the celebrations for the George Buchanan 500th birthday anniversary.

THE MORELAND FAMILY

Alistair Imrie 1942 – 2024

Alistair Imrie was born in Glasgow in 1942. He was the second of three sons, and grew up in Bearsden. He met Anne in 1967 and they were married in 1971. Alan, Gavin and Suzanne completed their family by 1979.

Papa to Katie, Lucy, Logan, Blair, Anna and Lewis, Alistair's youthful disposition was loved by them all, and they have fond memories of his humour and fun. He loved nothing more than spending time with them and hearing their 'chat'.

Alistair had a technical mind and secured an apprenticeship at Barr and Stroud after leaving school. He was very much a people person, and quickly realised he would be better suited to a different role. His outgoing and friendly personality led him to a career in sales, which he was well suited to and thoroughly enjoyed. Working for an architectural aluminium company for over 30 years, Alistair loved the connections he made with people across different organisations and the buzz he got from securing contracts.

Anne and Alistair's first home was in Bearsden, but country life beckoned and in 1975 they moved to Elder Road, Killearn, where they have stayed ever since. Alistair had great memories of playing outdoors during his childhood, and the close proximity that their home had to the Killearn Glen was an attraction,



offering to give his own children the same experience.

Football was his first love, and along with younger brother Gordon, they started Rannoch Amateurs Football Club in 1960. The club is still going strong today. Watching and playing football was his passion and he continued to play into his 40s in the 'Dad's' football on a Friday evening at the park. Alistair also enjoyed coaching the Scout football team for a number of years when his boys were young, and will be fondly remembered as 'Coach' by those who were in the team at that time. He was delighted that his love of the game lives on through son Gavin, and grandsons Logan, Blair and Lewis. In recent times, he was very proud when Logan and Blair signed for Kilmarnock.

Alistair had a love of the outdoors and was a keen golfer, and a member

at Buchanan Castle Golf Club for 30 years. He thoroughly enjoyed his Saturday morning round of golf, and made solid friendships which stood the test of time.

A self-proclaimed sun worshipper, Alistair loved his holidays abroad with Anne, which increased during his retirement years and became a regular occurrence. Gardening was also a passion, and Alistair worked tirelessly to create a beautiful garden for the family to enjoy.

Walks in the countryside with Anne, carefully planned with a coffee stop in mind, kept him fit in his retirement years until September 2023, when he was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (MND). This was a significant blow to someone as active as Alistair. Despite this, he remained upbeat and positive until the end, always greeting family and friends with a smile and plenty of humour.

Alistair died aged 81 years on 15 June 2024. The service at Killearn Kirk, followed by burial at Killearn Cemetery on 26 June, was a fitting tribute. Anne and family would like to thank the congregation for their kind donations to MND Scotland which raised £780.

Young at heart with an enthusiastic personality, Alistair Imrie will be greatly missed by family and friends.

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PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD

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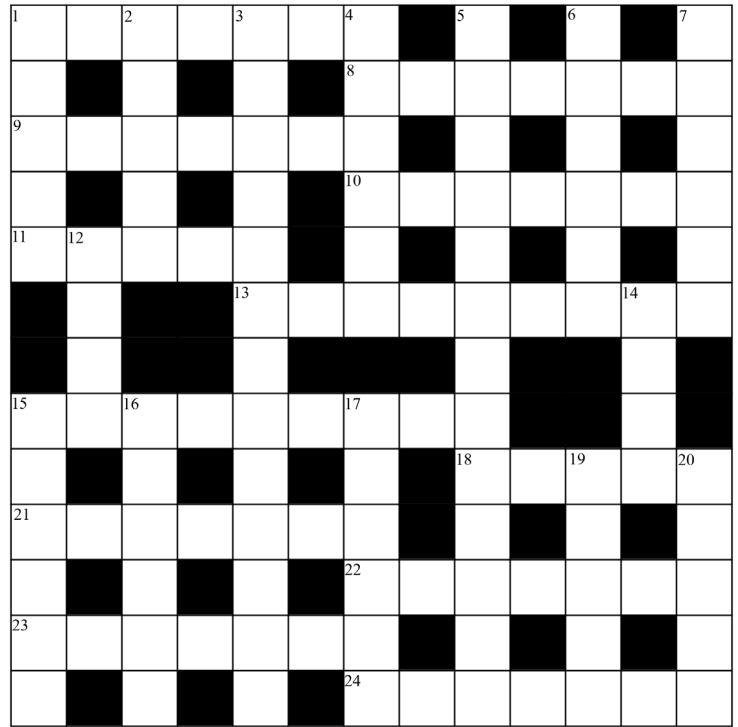
Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is £10 to spend or even save. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. The *Courier* would like to thank the Ambassador Theatre Group for its generosity in providing this prize for the competition. Details of how to enter below.

ACROSS

- 1 A short sleep back holds top card remedy (7)
- 8 See 15
- 9 Menials mix up something fundamental (7)
- 10 The eighth girl's name? (7)
- 11 Tree of a greater age (5)
- 13 Without the will to spread tin before the property (9)
- 15, 8 This local charitable company where busy mums cut out finery (9,7)
- 18 To parody bohemian lover in opera, character first (5)
- 21,7 Putting car away where owner has his garage. (7,6)
- 22 Beethoven work sounds as if tea inside includes sexy art (7)
- 23 Mice travelled to Scottish conservation trust (7)
- 24 Examiners are streets away (7)

DOWN

- 1 Hand me the ecstasy – that's old hat (5)
- 2 New-age traveller has his name in Paris on a flyer (5)
- 3 Donations – obstruction in jumble (13)
- 4 A pot of money on the water (6)
- 5 Lusty bass most shaken about his wealth indicators (6,7)
- 6 Volume about short parade in Russian newspaper (6)
- 7 See 21
- 12 Inside, flu does indicate a game (4)
- 14 Payment I need to ride in this (4)
- 15 Stick with company in this place (6)
- 16 To shape with an unknown covered with fungal growth (6)
- 17 To swallow sounds funny (6)
- 19 I am in a labyrinth of corn (5)
- 20 Scottish groups caught with computer networks (5)



Solution to the last crossword: *Across*: 1 hellraiser; 7 Endrick; 8 Forth; 10 Doon; 11 Findhorn; 14 regain; 15 elders; 17 Scottish; 18 whig; 21 river; 22 Uppsala; 24 psephology. *Down*: 1 hydro; 2 lair; 3 rake in; 4 infidels; 5 ear lobe; 6 deoderiser; 9 hand signal; 12 gift wrap; 14 grooves; 16 pseudo; 19 heavy; 20 upto.

Winner of the last crossword: Greg Toal, Killearn

Solve the crossword. Four letters of the alphabet do not appear in the crossword. Either write those four letters in an email or on a piece of paper and send to the *Courier* for a chance to win our prize. Instructions how to enter are given in the box below.

Children's Prize Wordsearch

Find 10 words in the wordsearch grid that are names of roads in Killearn village.

Eight of the words are: Aitken, Allan, Balfron, Branziert, Drumtian, Elm, Gartness, Lampson.

Can you find the other two? Write them down and post or email your answer to the *Courier* for a chance to win £10.

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

Instructions for sending it are given in the box below.

Good luck to all the contestants.

PEEWIT

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry – it's easy! Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win.

Email your solution(s) to peewit@kfc.co.uk, or drop it in an envelope in the postbox outside the Village Hall addressed to Peewit before **1 September 2024**. Remember to give your name, address and a contact phone number. Children, please give your age.

Good luck, we love hearing from you.



Well done to the winners of the 'Spot the Difference' puzzle – Ellis (11) and Frankie (7) McKeeve.



In early May, we were delighted to discover that this young brown hare had taken up residence in our garden. Affectionately named 'Hareton Senna' due to his high speed foot-to-the-floor escapes whenever accidentally disturbed, this endearing creature has been slowly maturing in front of our eyes ever since.

Hares are generally nocturnal, solitary animals. During the day, they don't have burrows to retreat to like rabbits do. Instead, a hare will rest unobtrusively in a 'form', a shallow depression on open ground, which in Hareton's case is always the same flower bed by a wall at the back

of the house. From this semi-concealed vantage point he can spy what's about (before it spies him) and take evasive action if necessary by means of a smart bolt out of cover. Hares really are fast and can reach speeds of 70km/hour in jinking but sustained sprints that confuse predators. Such predators include foxes, of course, but young hares can also fall victim to stoats and raptors.

Around Killearn, we are most likely to see our hares on farmland by day in the spring when males compete for, and are fended off by, females. Their famous energetic chasing and boxing bouts are the origin of the saying 'mad March hares'.

Unlike the mountain hares of the Highlands, brown hares are not native to Britain. Definitive accounts are lacking, but they were introduced, possibly by the Romans, around 2,000 years ago. When it comes to identification, compared to rabbits, hares are simply longer – in body, hind limbs and black-tipped ears. Their eyes are also bigger and more prominent; their fur browner and ruddier.

While leverets are fully independent at one month old and reach sexual maturity by six to eight months, they do not breed in their first

year. Who knows how long young Hareton will loiter around the garden. He seems quite content nibbling away at flowering plants and grasses, even looking through the window at us, but is not really becoming any tamer.

One day he will have run off for good and, like many of our special encounters with wildlife, be a case of 'hare today, gone tomorrow'



MARTIN CULSHAW

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Anyone wishing to contribute to the winter edition of the *Courier* is reminded that it will be distributed on 16 November 2024.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 27 September 2024.

Contact: Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by 27 September 2024.

Please send them to:

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

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