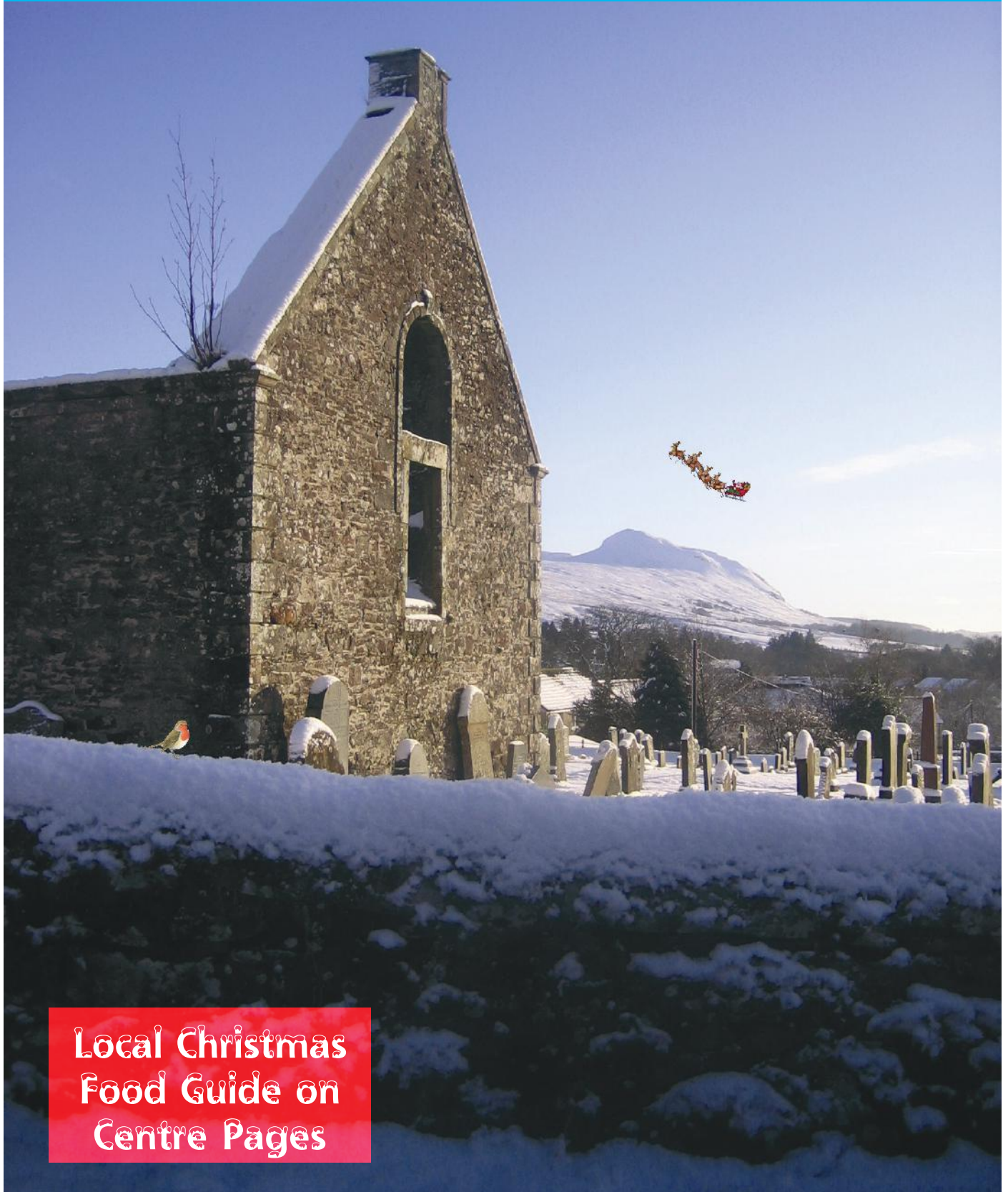




ISSUE 18

WINTER 2010

£1



**Local Christmas  
Food Guide on  
Centre Pages**

# We got Good Photos

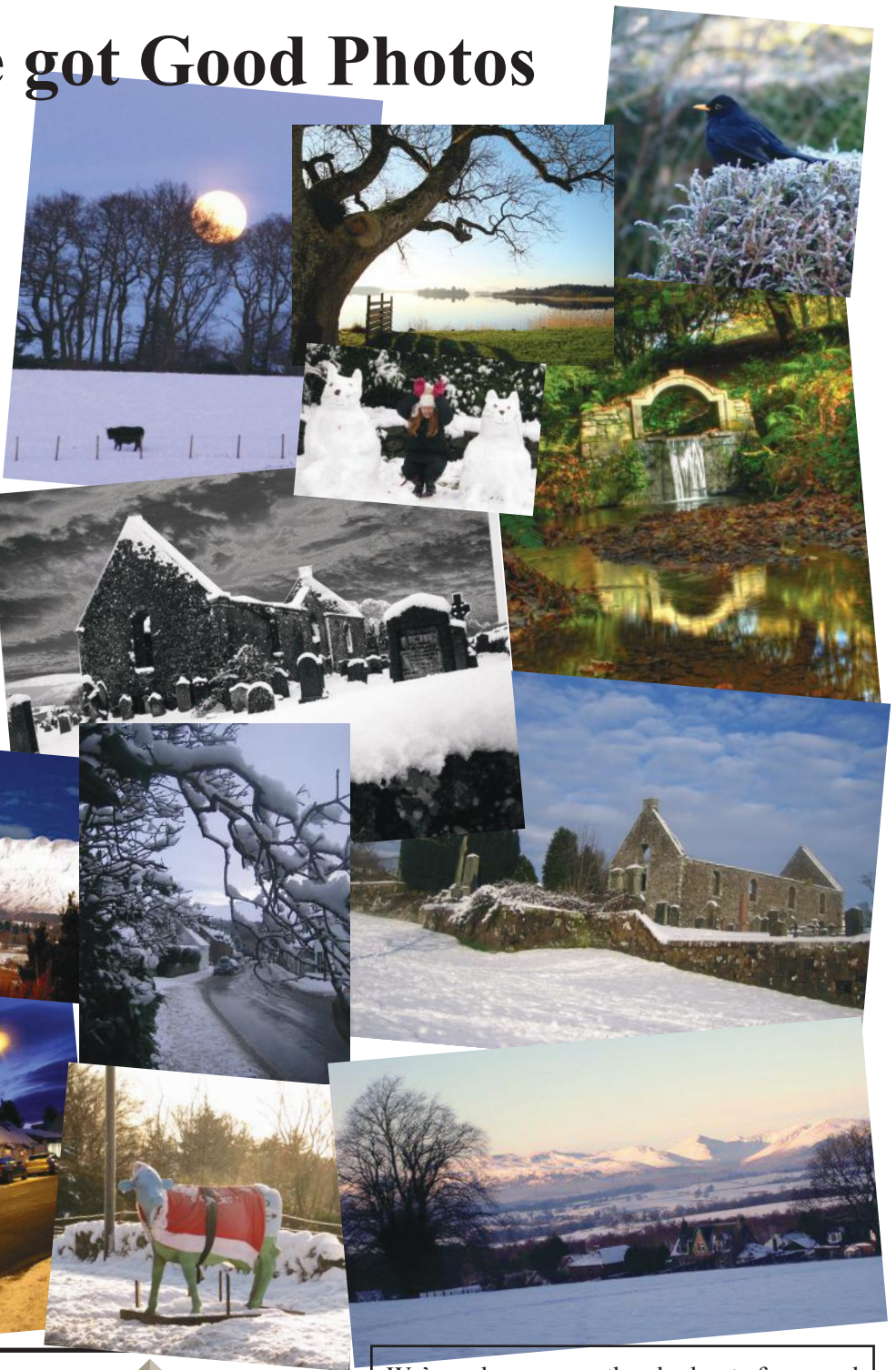
Readers may remember that in our Spring issue we asked you to send us photographs of your favourite winter scenes for possible use in our Christmas issue.

All photographs received were studied and after much consideration, the Courier Group unanimously agreed that the best photograph was the "Old Kirk & Dumgoyne" sent in by Lise Moore as featured on the front page of this edition.

We also used one sent in by Hugh Cameron as the centre piece in Joyce Begg's article on page 4.

Many thanks to Lise, Hugh, Susan Thomson, Andrew Donaldson and all the others who responded. Here is a selection.

*Ed*



**Killlearn Courier**

**published by: KILLEARN**  
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 12 March 2011.

**Advertisements and artwork** must be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 28 January. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

**Contributions and letters** to the editor must be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 28 January. Send them: by email to [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk) or by post to 2 Elder Road, G63 9RX

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# Editorial

Isn't it funny how time creeps up on you? It seems like only last week when we were still enjoying pleasant evenings sitting outside in the setting sun. Suddenly, it's dark about 5pm and we've already had a few hard frosts and cold winds making us turn on the central heating. Not only that, Christmas is going to be here very soon!

I mentioned the Eco Fair in the last edition and it proved to be an outstanding success, much enjoyed by all who went along. The good work is set to continue with the creation of the Sustainable Killearn group which will encourage the village to make a more positive use of our local resources.

Speaking of local resources, if you dip into our centre pages, you'll find all sorts of information regarding what can be purchased locally, thus saving you the hassle of the city and showing support for our own businesses. In this current financial climate, it is important that we do support our local resources because, to coin a well known phrase, *if we don't use 'em, we'll lose 'em*. Imagine Killearn with no butcher, Spar or Co-op!!! Doesn't bear thinking about.

We had quite a response to our article in the Spring issue asking you to send us a photograph of your favourite winter scene. You can see the results on the front page and elsewhere inside. Suffice to say they prove that Killearn and the surrounding area really is beautiful.

We hope to announce in our next issue details of a project we would like to try. It will be along the lines of seeking 'The Courier Journalist of the Year' sort of idea and inviting those interested to send us an article on something they've been involved in, hobby, sport, gap year, whatever. We've still to work out the details and the winning entry will appear in the Courier. We hope to be able to have a cash prize as well. So look out for this in the next edition.

In the meantime, all of us at the Courier hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support over the year and enjoy this latest issue.

*Ian*

*Ian Dickie, Editor*



- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 14 Nov    | Remembrance Service, War Memorial, 10.45am  |
| 19 Nov    | Strathendrick Film Society: "The Last Station" Balfron Campus, 7.30pm<br>Strathendrick Country Dance Society, Annual Charity Dance, Village Hall                            |
| 22-27 Nov | FADS Christmas Show: "Annie" 7.30pm & Sat Matinee 2pm.<br>Tickets & information from 860078   |
| 25 Nov    | Drymen History Society. "Bridging the Leven" Talk by Gordon Burns, Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm  |
| 27 Nov    | The Guild Sale, Killearn Kirk Hall, 10.30-12noon<br>PTA Christmas Fayre, Killearn Village Hall, 10.30am<br>Get Reel St Andrew's Day Concert & Ceilidh, Village Hall, 7.30pm |
| 4 Dec     | Killearn Country Market, Village Hall   |
| 5 Dec     | Communion Service, Killearn Kirk, 10.30am & 6.30pm  |
| 10 Dec    | Strathendrick Singers Christmas Concert, Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm<br>Tickets from choir members or online at <a href="http://www.thebooth.co.uk">www.thebooth.co.uk</a>        |
| 12 Dec    | Strathendrick Singers at St. Mary's Aberfoyle, 7.30pm<br>Christmas Gift Service, Killearn Kirk, 10.30am   |
| 16 Dec    | Killearn Kirk Christmas Concert, Village Hall, 7.30pm   |
| 23 Dec    | Strathendrick Film Society: "Fantastic Mr Fox"<br>Children's Matinee, 2pm, Balfron Campus   |
| 24 Dec    | Watchnight Service. Informal Carol singing from 11pm,<br>Service at 11.30pm, Killearn Kirk  |
| 25 Dec    | Christmas Morning Service, Killearn Kirk, 10.30am   |
| 7 Jan     | Strathendrick Film Society: "The Men who Stared at Goats"<br>Balfron Campus, 7.30pm   |
| 22 Jan    | Charity Burns Supper, Killearn Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm   |
| 27 Jan    | Drymen History Society Members Night, Drymen Village Hall, 7.30pm   |
| 2 Feb     | Horticultural Society AGM, Killearn Village Hall  |
| 4 Feb     | Strathendrick Film Society: "Laxdale Hall" Balfron Campus, 7.30pm   |
| 5 Feb     | Killearn Country Market, Village Hall   |
| 18 Feb    | Strathendrick Film Society: "It's Complicated" Balfron Campus, 7.30pm   |
| 19 Feb    | Strathendrick Singers Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10am-12noon   |
| 24 Feb    | Drymen History Society: "A Place Fit for a King" (The restoration of King James V palace). Talk by Kirsten Wood, Drymen Village Hall  |
| 26 Feb    | Jumble Sale for Malawi, Village Hall, 10am  |
| 4 Mar     | Strathendrick Film Society: "The Concert" Balfron Campus, 7.30pm  |
| 5 Mar     | Killearn Country Market, Village Hall   |
| 11 Mar    | Horticultural Society Whist Drive, Village Hall, 7.30pm   |
| 18 Mar    | PTA Killearn's Got Talent, Village Hall, 7pm  |
| 20 Mar    | Strathendrick Singers Spring Concert, Killearn Kirk, 7pm  |
| 24 Mar    | Drymen History Society: "Quakers In Scotland since 1653". Talk by Paul Burton,<br>Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm   |
| 25 Mar    | Strathendrick Film Society: "The Ghost Writer" Balfron Campus, 7.30pm   |

*If you have any notices for the March 2011 issue of the Diary (mid-March to mid-April) please contact Pat Ryall (550713).*

## Welcome to Killearn



The Courier extends a very warm welcome to Rev Lee Messeder and his wife, Evelyn. Lee began his ministry on 4 November. He tells us that he enjoys walking and cycling and is looking forward to his new charge. He says that it will be a privilege to serve the people of Killearn.

## Christmas Home and Away by Joyce Begg

It's coming up to that time of year again, when Christmas looms on the horizon and we begin to wonder if we should do the same traditional things we've been doing for decades, or try something new. Of course, a lot depends on whom you want to spend the festive season with. If we are not to enjoy the indulgence of a solitary Christmas with one's own choice of food and telly, we will probably want to spend it with family and/or friends. And sometimes we have to travel to do this. It would certainly be different to experience Christmas in, say, Australia, and while the feelings of togetherness and celebration will be the same there as anywhere else, many of us would find it odd to enjoy the great day singing about the winter's snow while tending a turkey barbie on a scalding beach.

Christmas in Canada, on the other hand, can be pretty cold. My abiding memory of a Montreal Christmas in the '60s was the air being too cold to breathe and the smallest turkey you could buy being 15 pounds in weight. For two people, this took some consuming and meant we had it for three meals every day so that it was finished before we headed off to Ontario for New Year. Our tiny downtown flat did not sport a freezer and our Scottish souls would not let us throw out good food. Christmas in New England some years later was also pretty cold, but that time we were part of a rural community, a village with a white clapboard church, whose choir went carol singing with a lantern on the end of a pole. Flakes of snow were lit up in the night air, while people in party dresses stood at their colonnaded doors to listen to us. The word 'iconic' was



not in common parlance then, but that's what it was – North American perfection.

Lots of countries know how to celebrate in a nice traditional way. We once had an Advent Calendar with a picture of Munich Christmas market on it, which was so pretty that it was still on show in June. One year, the Christmas meeting of our church Woman's Guild included in its programme a selection of Swedish carols, sung by Anne's sister Alison, who lives there. They were beautiful, with a distinctive and slightly eerie sound, so that one felt not only the magic of the season, but also the moonlit chill of the landscape. Oh, yes, we are not the only ones who know how to celebrate Christmas.

In our own village, there are all sorts of seasonal events to look forward to, from activities in the school to the Strathendrick Singers concert. December is when we get our annual bash at the carols, so let's make the most of it. We may not all be fine singers, but everyone can do it. Many of us have had reservations about what is perceived as the intrusion of a screen into our pretty Victorian church, but when it comes to singing, that screen comes into its own. Having the words of the hymns in a prominent position has improved the congregational singing no end. Even inveterate mumblers can make a great sound when their heads are in the right position. The carols will sound just as good here as they do in New England and Sweden, especially if everyone takes part.

*Happy Christmas, everyone.*

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## White Ribbon Scotland – White Ribbon Stirling?

The White Ribbon Campaign is an International movement campaigning for the involvement

of men in the prevention and eradication of violence against women. The White Ribbon Scotland campaign has grown over the past few years and has now appointed a full-time coordinator who is working with us in Stirling to help us achieve, 'White Ribbon Stirling' status. This award is for Councils and Local Communities who wish to demonstrate their commitment to the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign. These aims include raising awareness of the issue of domestic violence; understanding and providing services in order to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and to provide the local community with increased support and understanding of the issue.

Stirling is working hard to prioritise and improve services tackling violence against women and its effects on families and communities. Stirling fully supports the White Ribbon

Campaign and the White Ribbon March has now become an annual event in December as part of the 16 Days of Action.

A White Ribbon Planning Group has now been set up and a range of activities are planned to take place including work across the community with local men's groups, with young people, and a range of agencies working to challenge and change cultural and social norms which shapes individual behaviours – including the use of violence. We cannot underestimate the benefits of raising awareness and dealing with domestic violence. It is an issue which affects the whole of society and the lasting effects are long term – especially for children in homes where such violence occurs.

Get the WHITE RIBBON for your site, blog or social network profile



Stirling is a great location to be the first to receive White Ribbon status in Scotland.

More information on the campaign and its activities can be found on [www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk) or by contacting *Anne Meikle, VAW Policy Coordinator on [afmeikle@gmail.com](mailto:afmeikle@gmail.com)*



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# Healthy Walking Around Killearn

Health walks, run by Active Stirling, are a great way to get some exercise while enjoying the company of other walkers. The walks have been running in the Killearn area since April and there is now a regular group of dedicated walkers. At first the walks were based around Killearn village but we have now branched out a little further, to places such as Blane field, Mugdock and Gartness where we have benefited from fabulous short walks along cycle tracks, pipe tracks, the West Highland Way and other local paths. These have provided different and unusual views of the lovely scenery around our beautiful village.

The walks last about 30 - 45 minutes, with walkers moving at their own pace, and we generally end up with tea/coffee/cakes at local eateries afterwards. A special treat was a private venue provided by one of our walkers (thanks, Helen), including car parking, private walk, and courtyard al fresco refreshments afterwards. We are still welcoming new additions to our numbers and would be delighted if any of you would like to join us. Our walkers enjoy being out in the fresh air and the companionship and confidence provided by the group, not to mention the excuse to enjoy cakes/scones without guilt, and the general lifting of the spirit provided by the great outdoors. These short walks are an excellent way to get back into exercise gently after illness or injury. They are led by trained walk leaders and all you need are sturdy shoes and a waterproof jacket.



*The meeting places for the programme of walks are:*

- 18 November Junction B834/A809 Finnich Glen
- 25 November Beech Tree Inn
- 2 December Killearn Mill followed by Christmas Tea at Oakwood

*If you would like to join the group please contact:*

- Shelagh Goodwin (01360 550836)
- Tricia Cumming (01786 432323)
- Ann White (07746453840)

*or email [cummingsp@activestirling.org.uk](mailto:cummingsp@activestirling.org.uk)*

Details of these and other walks offered by Active Stirling can be found on the website [www.activestirling.org.uk](http://www.activestirling.org.uk) (click on Active Communities to see the walk programmes).



## Xmas at The Old Mill Gift Shop

4b Balfron Road, Killearn Tel 550666



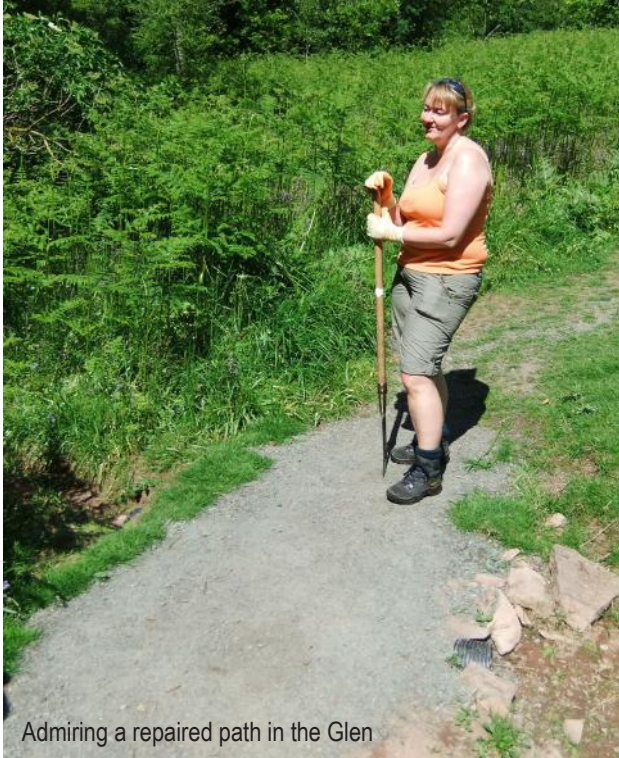
The gift shop in the village is gearing up for a busy time again this Xmas. We are lucky to have such great staff and Margaret, Maureen, Elsie, Marcia and Pat are looking forward to helping you find some inspiration with your Christmas gift shopping. Most of the ladies have been with us for many years and have a first class knowledge of both the customers and the stock in the shop. So, before heading off to town, pop in to see our huge selection of gifts for all ages, get some friendly expert advice, enjoy a natter and exchange some local 'news'!

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### Children's Clothing

After a gap of several years, we are stocking some great casual clothing lines for toddlers through to about age 7. We have polos, sweatshirts, fleeces and gilets from brands such as Joules and Lazy Jacks. Our plan is to expand this selection if the initial reaction is good and we may also extend the size range offered. We have picked lines that should not only be good for your own children but also make great gifts. If you have a favourite brand that you like and think it might work on a local basis, please let us know.

# Killearn Paths Group Volunteers Wanted



Admiring a repaired path in the Glen

Members of the Paths Group are active in promoting, enhancing and protecting off-road paths in and around Killearn and investigating the provision of new routes. Many of these paths are in popular use by members of the community and visitors to the area. Some are designated as Core Paths and are included on Stirling Council records as such. Volunteers regularly patrol these paths and report problems to the Stirling Council Access Officer. Until recently Stirling Council Ranger Services carried out maintenance of Core Paths, but Council reorganisation and the forthcoming overall limitation on Council budgets will result in much less path maintenance by Council employees.

We would like to recruit volunteers from among local residents to take over this essential activity under the direction of the Paths Group and with the support and guidance of Stirling Council's Access Officer. Training, tools and insurance will be provided. Volunteers would be allocated a specific path or section of path to monitor and report on. When necessary, resources would be pooled to carry out remedial work. Most of the activity would involve nothing more than a good excuse to get out and go for a walk!

Please consider getting involved. By volunteering you will make a very positive contribution to the community, and as a bonus have fun and healthy exercise!

If you are interested please contact:

*Alice Bell, Secretary, Tel: 01360 440320 or  
Norman McNab, Chairman, Tel: 01360 550441*

# Are You Crafty?



Coming in the New Year – a new craft group to brighten up the dark winter evenings!

The group will meet locally and will encompass a wide variety of crafts – in fact anything you would like to bring along if you are already experienced. The aim is to share ideas and skills in a nice sociable atmosphere.

If you are a beginner we can help with basic tuition and we will be offering “how do you do that” evenings so that everyone can try something new. We can also help with materials to get you started. The group will be non profit-making so only a small charge will be necessary.

To register your interest or for further details please call:

*Glenda 01360 550142  
or Heather 01360 550980*

*or look out for a poster on the village notice board in December.*



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# The Eco Fair And Beyond...

The Eco Fair on 18 September was a successful village event, drawing a good sized audience interested in what was on show, impressed by the harvest produced by the Killearn Growers, amazed and excited by the eco education going on in our primary school and in Ballikinrain school, diverted by the smoothie-making bikes and riotously entertained by the Glasgow Science Centre Outreach programme of 'Blood, Bile and Body Bits' which played three times to full houses. In the Church Hall a display of the Primary School's involvement in Fair Trade and an accompanying Fair Trade stall attracted purchasers before they enjoyed the famed baking with tea and coffee of the PTA committee. From the car park, the Balforn High School bio-diesel bus, running on chip oil from a local restaurant, made trips to the school garden and went twice to Branshogle, an eco home on the outskirts of the village.

A wide range of stalls, ranging from real nappies to composting, to bio-diversity, Forth Valley orchards, Community Supported Agriculture and local food links nudged us into considering how we might all green up our lifestyles. A range of commercial companies demonstrated eco systems of insulation and heating and building.

Local good practice was highlighted in the displays of existing Killearn organisations and tote bags, bearing the

slogan 'Killearn Going Eco' designed by Primary School pupils, were on sale. Buying one of these, and using it for your village shopping, marks your commitment to a greener way of life!

As a spin-off from the Eco Fair a Sustainable Killearn group is being set up with the aim of promoting projects that will encourage action in making more positive use of local resources to reduce our carbon footprint. Heather Wright will chair this group which will apply to Killearn Community Futures Company for inclusion as one of the working groups of the company. Any readers interested in becoming involved with this would be welcomed. Contact Heather on 550980 or heatherwrightuk@aol.com

Look out for regular coverage on eco matters in future issues of Killearn Courier. BP



Bruce Crawford, MSP, proudly displaying his tote bag and finding how Killearn is going 'green'




Sampling what was on offer in the main hall



Children working for their smoothies by generating electricity using pedal power for the blender

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## Goodbye Playgroup

Killearn Pre-school Playgroup Committee regrets to announce that the Playgroup is no longer running and will close officially at the end of 2010. The decision to close was not taken lightly and we regret the loss to the village and surrounding community of such an important resource for families and their children.

We wish our staff, Sara Lennox and Joanne Kelly, all the best in the future and thank them for their dedicated service, providing a warm engaging environment for young children to socialise and flourish. Sara will continue providing child-care services from her home in Killearn.

Playgroup closed due to lack of funds and registered kids. Basically we were not raising enough fees from kids coming along and were not able to fund-raise enough money or receive enough grants to cover running costs. On closure we had four children registered and we close with seven members. Playgroup was given a stay of execution this year by the receiving of a Voluntary Action Fund Grant for which helped pay our rent for 2010.

Many thanks to all the people in the past who worked tirelessly for the group especially former committee members, people who brought their children to playgroup and anyone who supported Playgroups efforts. Thank-you to Killearn Kirk for providing a wonderful venue and to Sue Beck for her help. Special thanks to Enola Butler at the Scottish Pre-School Playgroup Association for her advice and help over the years. We would also like to thank Beech Drive Nursery for their continued support over the years.

*Committee and former Committee, Killearn Pre-school Playgroup  
Alison McDade, Eleanor Jamieson, Anna Gillespie and Angela Carey*

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

**Call 01360 551100  
or 07748754583**

## Killearn Community Futures Company AGM

The AGM of Killearn Community Futures Company was held on 28 October in the Village Hall. Despite the inclement weather, around 40 company members turned out to enjoy the exhibits showing what the working groups had accomplished in the previous year. Naturally, the Village Hall Development Group attracted a lot of interest, as did the wonderful pictures of the Hoolie.

The business meeting was chaired by KCFC convenor, Daye Tucker. Expanding on her written Chairman's Report, she congratulated the community for its 'resilience' in the face of the current difficult times, using the example of the Community Council's Eco Fair in September, which has now developed into a new KCFC working group: Sustainable Killearn. She also welcomed all new members and especially Colourful Killearn which has now joined the growing number of KCFC working groups.

The treasurer, Bob Ballantyne, reported to the AGM that KCFC's finances are very healthy, with large increases in the restricted funds mainly as a result of donations towards the Village Hall. He thanked Ian Sommerville for acting as an independent examiner for the Reports and Accounts, as well as Gillian Smith for her advice concerning OSCR requirements.

The convenor thanked the outgoing directors, Ian Dickie and Stuart Simmers, as well as Joanna Donaldson as Company Secretary, for all their hard work as over the past years. Elections to the Board returned Daye Tucker, Bob Ballantyne and Brian Simmers as Member Directors, as well as electing two new Directors. Mike Gray will represent Colourful Killearn and Heather Wright will convene Sustainable Killearn. The other Member Directors are

Helen Loudon, Jaqui MacAlpine, Norman McNab and Peter Wilks. Jamie Parker will represent the Killearn Trust and Brenda Pell the Community Council as Appointed Directors for 2010-11.

There were no specific questions from the members regarding any of the working groups, and Daye thanked Dougie Bell for setting up the Hoolie group exhibit.

The AGM was formally closed and everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and biscuits, organised by the All Killearn Archive convenor, Helen Loudon, and her helpers.

## Rural Business Survey

In partnership with the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Stirling Council is carrying out a study to understand demand for business space in rural Stirling. If you have a business in the rural area or work from home and would like to take part, please access the survey online at [www.stirling.gov.uk/ruralsurvey](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/ruralsurvey) or contact Joelle Russell (Economic Support & Tourism, Stirling Council) on 01786 442778 to request a copy.

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WEDNESDAY – Balfon (am), Killearn (pm)

# Triumph Renown

This model and the Roadster were the first Triumphs to be launched after the acquisition of Triumph by the Standard Motor Company now trading as Standard Triumph. This car first appeared in 1946 as the Triumph 1800 Town and Country saloon later becoming the Renown with the 2000cc engine as fitted to the Standard Vanguard. This was one of the very first cars to appear after the war with a completely new body style although carrying over much of the pre-war engineering.

In 1945, Sir John Black, Managing Director of Standard, commissioned the coachbuilders Mulliner in Birmingham to design a Triumph luxury saloon. Mulliner were unable to come up with an acceptable design within the timescale required and in frustration, Sir John asked his own in-house stylist, Frank Callaby, to come up with a unique shape and gave him three hours to come up with a proposal!

As no one dared queried the Managing Director's directive the stylist handed in his suggested body style within the allotted time. There was no doubt that he got it right first time with a very distinctive and handsome razor-edged style reminiscent of the Rolls-Royce, Bentley and Daimlers of that era. The design was adopted and the body was built for Triumph by Mulliner in the traditional manner with a



wooden frame and aluminium panels. The car was a six light saloon body with slim window pillars and half frame windows.

This was a successful up-market model for Triumph with a model run of almost nine years. Although it didn't sell in large numbers, it certainly retained its exclusiveness. During that time modifications were made and rationalisation took place between the Triumph and Standard models. Variations included a limousine with a full division on a slightly longer wheelbase. This longer wheelbase was adopted for the later saloon models as well.

## Strathendrick Classic Car Club

The summer started off well, and our big run to Boat of Garten took place in glorious weather. Going so far, and staying overnight, was a new venture for the club but it was such a success that we hope to organise something similar next summer. This was followed, in June, by a (mildly) competitive run along some amazingly scenic minor roads to Portavadie marina.

With no club events in July and August, members took part in non-club events, including the annual Three Lochs Rally. Not only did a number of members take part, but the Triumph Renown belonging to one of our members, and featured in this issue, won first prize in its class in the Concours d'Elegance.

September saw members going to the Farming of Yesteryear Show at Scone and in October we had a short evening run around local back roads, which was followed by a meal at the Black Bull in Gartmore. In November we had a speakers meeting in Buchanan Castle Golf Club and our next meeting is the Annual Ladies Night on 8 December also at Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

If anyone has a classic or interesting car and would like to join our ranks, please contact: *Phillip Pain (550752)*.

*Robert Livingston, Chairman*

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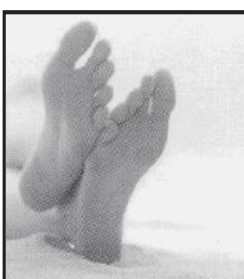
Are you fed up watching the timer aimlessly circling when you are trying to watch a programme on iplayer and you realise your broadband speed just cannot deliver, despite the promises of your internet supplier? The UK lags behind many other countries in broadband bandwidth and speed, especially in rural areas such as Killearn. The question is, *does it matter?* It might be difficult to make a case for spending millions so that I can catch up on TV programmes I have forgotten to record, but a much better case can be made for rural industries, because, like it or not, modern business depends on fast access to broadband.

In May 2010, the new UK government published its coalition agreement, which included, among other things, plans to enable the rapid roll-out of super-fast broadband across the UK including in remote areas. . The government recognised that rural areas cannot be overlooked in their plans to roll out fast broadband to 90% of the UK by 2017.

So it was with some anticipation that I decided to log on to *BT's Race to Infinity* and I urge you to do the same. However, it was with disappointment that, on entering my post code, it came up with the message: *Sorry, but your exchange is not eligible to win The Race to Infinity as it has fewer than 1000 premises. We still want you to get involved, so please go to 'VOTE NOW' to express your interest. If 75% of your exchange registers, BT will engage with your community to see what we can do in your area.*

So there you have it; your chance of a superfast optic fibre connection is remote and we may have to rely on other technologies, such as wireless or satellite.

It is still worth voting on the BT's site – it doesn't commit you to anything – because if 661 people in Killearn vote (*four have voted so far*), then at least BT have promised that they will engage with the community to discuss what can be done. So don't just sit there, fire up the laptop, go to [www.bt.com/infinity](http://www.bt.com/infinity), click the *vote now* box on the right, and **VOTE!** I expect to see the votes soar. PW



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## Killearn Mini Music Makers

The classes have undergone a few changes since last term. The Tuesday morning classes now begin at 9.15am, when it's the turn of accompanied children aged 2 to 3 years. If as an accompanying adult, you find that on the early side, don't worry as there is always tea and coffee available in the kitchen! Mums, dads, grannies and anyone else are all welcome as long as you have a 2 to 3-year old in tow to share the fun with.

From 10-10.40am it's the turn of the 1 to 2-year olds – *the really busy people*. I try to include quite a lot of games which involve movement for this group as they are never short of energy!

In an attempt to make the music sessions even more age appropriate I have started two new groups in Balfron. Children aged 3 to 4 years, maybe those who have a morning nursery place or who just want an afternoon music activity can join us in the Balfron Church Rooms at 1.15pm for *Monday Music*. This group explores musical stories and tuned percussion as well as developing confident individual singing voices. From 2.00 to 2.40pm babies aged 0 to 12 months can have a special time with their adult carer sharing traditional rhymes, old and new, and we can learn some new songs and lullabies which might just come in handy for some of those more challenging moments of parenthood!

If you think you might be interested do get in touch with *Clare* on 01360 550166. The groups run throughout term-time.

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# 2nd Killearn Brownies

The 2nd Killearn Brownies have had a very busy year celebrating the centenary of Girl Guiding as well as carrying on all their normal Brownie activities. The centenary celebrations were launched in Grangemouth, where we met up with many other Brownies, Guides and Rainbows from all over Endrick division.

We have worked on our Adventure 100 badge all year, our older Brownies have now been awarded two badges, while our newer girls have all completed one. We have had water play, made hot air balloons (with mixed success!), learned about the life of a plastic bag and many other challenges. We combined 'Making Tracks' with our Walkabout challenge for 2010 by following a flour trail around the village to a viewpoint. We noted down anything we saw of interest and made a poster to send off to Girl Guiding. We also worked on our Science badge, learning about electrical circuits, mixing chemicals and making home-made rockets, and our Craft badge. We are currently working towards our Writers badge. On the opposite page you can read the winning entry in our writing competition which was judged by Sara Hudson. The winners are now



published journalists.! Well done to all the Brownies for some great writing.

In May, eight of us were lucky enough to go with our two leaders on the Brownie holiday to the PGL centre at Dalguise, run as part of the centenary celebrations. The centre was filled with Brownies from all over Central Scotland and we made lots of new friends as well as challenging ourselves to do some pretty scary things, such as wall climbing, abseiling and jumping for a trapeze! We also learned lots of new songs which we had fun teaching to the other Brownies when we got back. The highlight of the weekend was a huge campfire with traditional and new songs and a fantastic firework display, featuring the Brownie trefoil in lights. The holiday was such a success we are all looking forward to repeating it next year.

Coming up we have the centenary finale at Balfron, our annual trip to the MacRobert panto and the Friends of Guiding coffee morning. We hope to see you there to support all the Guiding units in the village.

*Sarah Whitely*

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# The Brownie Holiday

by Hannah Williams and Fiona Rowan



Last term we went on a Brownie holiday in Perthshire. The adventure centre was called PGL. The rooms were lovely and snugly. Also the food was delicious. The next day we all went and did a very big climbing wall and it was raining at the time and it was very slippery. After that we had a go at doing the trapeze, it was great fun. In the afternoon we did archery, which was really difficult, then we did abseiling which was very scary. That night there was a big bonfire and fireworks. We went to bed at 11 o'clock. In the morning we did lots of different activities but our team didn't get the most points and we came second. Then it was time to go home.

# Killearn Beavers

Killearn Beaver colony continues to thrive. Akela Sara Hudson has two able helpers in Andy Begbie and Alistair MacLaren. We are also very grateful for the cooperation and help from our parent rota, which provides so much help in the running of the Beaver colony. So far this year we have been doing air activities; making rockets and planes and we had a great trip to see Kirkintilloch Barnstormers Model Aeroplane club who kindly flew their planes in tricky conditions. We are now concentrating on our imagination theme in the run up to our trip to Buchlyvie pantomime at the end of term.

SH



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# Killlearn Primary School News

## We reached Fairtrade success

Reported by Arran Hamilton and Marco Heron



Killlearn Primary School's fair-trade committee have been working hard to become a Fairtrade school. They have been preparing tuck shops and coffee mornings for the pupils and the teachers, holding assemblies and more! Assemblies show pupils what they have been doing to help the people that are not given a fair amount of money for their trade. The fairtrade committee are proud of their success as Killlearn Primary School can now call itself a Fairtrade School. They are going to work hard to make sure we keep being one. The committee members are: Kim Denton and Hannah Williams in P5, Marco Heron and Arran Hamilton in P6, Mackenzie Burns and Katie Biggart in P7 and Mrs Macleod and Mrs MacArthur.

## Welly Day

Reported by Abbie Hamilton, Jemma Whyte & Oxana McGuigan



At the end of September, it was Killlearn Primary's Welly Day to raise money for the terrible floods in Pakistan. The day

went very well and it was great fun, but it wasn't all about the fun, it was also about the money we raised for Pakistan.

First we went down to the hall to remember why we were having this day; we were shown a powerpoint and a presentation made by P4 and P7 pupils and we learned that we are much more fortunate than the people of Pakistan.

Then we all had a welly fashion show! Afterwards we did a welly throw and a welly dance. In the afternoon we also had some water challenges they went very well. We all got very wet! At the end of that great day we raised £700 for the floods in Pakistan.

## KPS gets its Green Flag!

Reported by Katie Biggart and Lewis Stewart.



Lately, Killlearn Primary School and the Eco Committee have been working hard to get our green flag. The green flag shows that we are an eco school. We had to do lots of things to get our green flag. Each class has an eco remit: P1 are the Fruit Friends, P2 are the Grounds Gang, P3 are Wild Life Watchers, P4 are Global Citizens, P5 are Water Wizards, P5/6 are the Waste Monitors, P6/7 are Power Rangers and P7 are refurbishing the outdoor classroom.

We also had an eco code competition and the challenge was to make a new eco code because we thought it would be a good idea for the inspection. Sophie Howie from P7 won the competition.

In September we had an inspection from a

lady called Mrs Black, who asked us what we had done and we showed her around. She also got to listen into our meeting. Later that day we got a call saying ...

**WE GOT OUR GREEN FLAG!**

*We are all very proud.*

## P1 and Parent Workshop

Reported by John Paterson



Our brand new Primary 1s have wasted no time in getting hard at work in Killlearn. In August they were very busy making their holiday posters with their parents and Big Buddies. Cara went to Crief and enjoyed it a lot! She made her summer memory poster with her big buddy, Jemma. Many children enjoyed a visit to the beach too. Shannon said: "I went to the beach and went to the cinema to go and see two movies: Shrek 4 and Toy Story 3 it was great!! Also, like many other P1s Oliver went to see Toy Story 3 – it seemed a big hit!

## ARE YOU PLANNING A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY or CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION?

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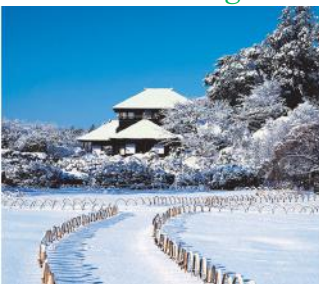
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# All Killearn Archive

This year, the All Killearn Archive (AKA) has been researching the people who served in World War II who are named on our War Memorial. We've given talks to the Inner Wheel and visited the Primary School, sharing the information we have uncovered and hearing about the experiences of local people alive at the time.

Sometimes, serendipity plays a part too and something unusual happens. AKA received an email from Gunnar Jansen who lives in Elsfleth, Germany. His father had been in the war and had worked at Kepculloch Farm after having been a prisoner of war in Killearn. Gunnar was hoping to see where his late father had worked and wished to contact the Steel family. This was duly done and Gunnar visited the Steels and enjoyed a visit to the distillery, after which everyone had a very enjoyable evening at The Quinloch. Two months later, he returned with his mother, wife and daughter to show them everything he had discovered.



With the aid of Killearn Community Council, AKA has acquired the telephone kiosk at Dumgoyne Post Office. It will remain in its present location for the time being and plans are well advanced for its repair and repainting. The aim is to use it as a point for local village information. We think it will be an attractive advertising space for local businesses and social organisations. It is also hoped that the narrow window spaces can be filled with artwork completed by pupils from the primary school as well as other youth organisations, including

the Boys' Brigade and Scouts and Guides.

If you are a local business interested in the advertising possibilities please contact *Helen Loudon* (770225). If you have any arty ideas for sprucing up the phone box – or would like to help – please contact *Nancy Bailey* (550226).

The Archive group is also concerned about the state of repair of the old milestones around the village. If we receive the go-ahead from Stirling Council a new project may see AKA 'adopting' these historic markers, to make sure they are looked after for the future.

*Helen Loudon*

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# HAVE YOURSELF A VERY FOOD

Whether drooling over the delights from Nigella's Christmas larder or Delia's, you have to plan and buy the food for our Festive holiday. While internet shopping is convenient, it can be a car park rage and reduces food miles: shop locally and give local traders your business. From a chocolate meringue gateau or Aunt Bessie's roast potatoes, it's all on your doorstep. T



Genuine Arbroath Smokies mail order courtesy of **STUARTS FISH VAN** (Wednesdays).



**SPAR'S** seasonal special offers on the essentials for the Christmas dinner including Aunt Bessie's roast potatoes, croquettes, half price Vienettas, mix and match wine offers – two bottles for £9.



Award winning steak pies for New Year's day, plus pheasants, turkeys and all the trimmings from Donald and Douglas at **MacDONALD BUTCHERS**.

Christmas cup cakes, Edenmill's turkeys, venison and a selection of food hampers including homemade preserves, chutneys, Fairtrade and gluten free specialist foods all at **KILEARN COUNTRY MARKET**, Saturday morning 4 December in the Village Hall.

Gourmet food goodies – pheasant, salmon or smoked trout patés, traditional Christmas cake to order, plum pudding, chestnut meringue gateau or chocolate truffle torte... to name but a few from **COUNTRY KITCHEN** at Heron's Court.

For stuffings with a difference head over to **EDENMILL** and try their unique Glengoyne whisky stuffings – venison & cranberry, pork & haggis or pork, fennel, garlic – all with Glengoyne whisky. Shop for locally sourced beef, pork, venison and Kelly Bronze turkeys.



Enjoy your foodie Christmas and remember



# THE CHRISTMAS ..... Locally

As the countdown to the perfectly cooked Christmas dinner, the fact is we still find shopping is undoubtedly convenient, there is a more sociable way to shop that avoids the queues and our much valued support. Whether you're looking for venison paté, chestnut roast or to tantalise your taste buds with a few of our ideas for Christmas.



Quality cheeses, freshly ground coffee, chocolates, foodie gifts and, as a special treat, a Hansel and Gretel style gingerbread house from **PESTLE & MORTAR** in Blane field.

Toast the Season the traditional way with a dram of award winning **GLENGOYNE** 17-year-old Highland Single Malt, available from the distillery.



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Remember, the diet doesn't start till January!

# Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society – Annual Show

Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society held their 144th Annual Show in the Village and Church halls on Saturday 28 August. Exhibitors came from far and wide – Stirling to Milngavie and Kirkintilloch – and most villages in rural west Stirlingshire were represented among the record breaking 815 entries – 229 of which were in the fruit and vegetable section alone.

In the Cut Flower section a large entry of dahlias saw Killearn exhibitor John Phillips win the Tom Robbie Cup for most points in these classes. The entries in the youth classes of the Floral Art section increased this year with some imaginative displays being exhibited.

There was magnificent display in the baking section with the judge opting for Gladys Farquharson's 1st prize fruit loaf as the best exhibit in the section. The budding David Baileys in the Community ensured keen competition in the Photographic section with Iain Wright winning best exhibit for his photo of cats Magnus and Duffie.

The judge had the daunting task of judging over 200 entries in the Fruit and Vegetable section, with the blanched leeks of Balfroun exhibitor Bill Stewart wining best exhibit in the section then judged against the best pot plant (fuchsia) and cut flower vase (chrysanth) to win the Quinloch decanter for best exhibit in Horticulture.



Show Chairman Iain McGowan was delighted with the large entry and on behalf of the Committee would like to thank all the exhibitors and helpers who made the day one to remember.

*Grant Farquharson*

Two prize winners are pictured on the left and the list of prize winners is given below:

PRIZE WINNERS		
Best Exhibit in Roses	<i>Sir George Wilson Rose Bowl</i>	G.W.Farquharson
Most Points - Dahlias	<i>Tom Robbie Trophy</i>	J.Phillips
Most Points - Section	<i>Blair Trophy</i>	J.Phillips
Best Exhibit in Sweet Peas		A.Watson
Best Exhibit in Annuals		Mrs J.McLaren
Best Exhibit in Spray Chrysanth		M.Crombie
Best Exhibit - Section		W.Robertson
FLORAL ART		
Best Exhibit - Section	<i>Floral Cup</i>	Mrs G.Asquith
Class B3 (Arrangement 4-9")	<i>Robertson Trophy</i>	S.Bell
Most Points - Section	<i>Findlay Cup</i>	S.Bell
Shield for Best Entry - Class B20	<i>Society Shield</i>	J.Bell
POT PLANTS		
Best Exhibit - Section		Mrs S.McIntyre
Best Exhibit Fuchsia Classes		Mrs S.McIntyre
Most Points - Section	<i>Battison Cup</i>	G.W.Farquharson
VEGETABLES & FRUIT		
Most Points - Classes D7-D13	<i>MacGowan Trowel</i>	W.Stewart
Best Exhibit Class D33	<i>Dunkyan Trophy</i>	W. MacGowan
Basket of Plenty	<i>Gordon Trophy</i>	W. MacGowan
Most Points - Section	<i>Society Trowel</i>	W.Stewart
Best Exhibit - Section	<i>Stevenson Cup</i>	W.Stewart
Best Exhibit in Horticulture	<i>Quinloch Decanter</i>	W.Stewart
BAKING		
Most Points - Classes E1-E13	<i>Cuthbert Family Salver</i>	Mrs J.Young
Best Exhibit Classes E1-E13		Mrs G.Farquharson
Special Prize Class E7 (Given Recipe)		Mrs G.Farquharson
Most Points - Classes E20-E32 (Youth)	<i>McIntosh Cup</i>	M.McVicar
MEGA MARROW		W. MacGowan

PRESERVES		
Best Exhibit - Section	<i>Preserves Clock</i>	A.Cairns
Most Points - Section F	MacFarlanes, Balfroun - Voucher	Mrs J.Dymond
WINE, BEER & CORDIALS		
Best Exhibit - Section		Mrs C.North
CRAFT		
Most Points - Classes H1-16	<i>Millenium Quiach</i>	Mrs G.Asquith
Best Exhibit Classes H1-16		Mrs G.Asquith
Most Amusing Craft Entry	<i>Cup (J.Wright)</i>	Mr & Mrs Wilks
Most Points - Classes H32-35	<i>Society Prize</i>	H.McLellan & B.Taylor
Best Exhibit Classes H36		I.Dunlop
Best Exhibit Classes H38		C.Nuttal
Most Amusing Craft Entry (Youth)		J&A.Cushing
PHOTOGRAPHIC		
Best Exhibit - Section	<i>Society Jubilee Quaich</i>	I.Wright
Most Points - Section		W.Bezuidewholt
ART		
Best Exhibit - Section		A.McLellan
Most Points - Section		A.McLellan
Best Teenage Exhibit - Classes K3/K4		C.Nuttal
Best Garden (Spring) 1st Prize		Mr & Mrs Dunnaway
Best Garden (Spring) 2nd Prize		Mr & Mrs Liburn
Best Garden (Spring) 3rd Prize		Mr & Mrs Breschia
Best Garden (Summer) 1st Prize	<i>Mrs E.Cameron Cup</i>	Mr & Mrs Leaning
Best Garden (Summer) 2nd Prize		Mr & Mrs D.Burt
Best Garden (Summer) 3rd Prize		J.Harvey
Best Garden (Hidden)	<i>Leonora Murray Trophy</i>	Mr & Mrs D.Davies
Best Garden (Hidden) 2nd Prize		Mrs R.Blackmore
Best Garden (Hidden) 3rd Prize		Mr & Mrs D.Duncan

# All Cisterns Go?



Following a review of the Stirling Council's current toilet facilities this year, the Council agreed to seek to introduce the *CPS* to replace some of the public toilets and consult with communities on local key holding where there is a desire to extend the opening hours of Stirling Council run toilets.

of the current financial position, the standard of toilets in all locations cannot be improved or sustained but nevertheless, adequate public toilet provision is required and the *CPS* will provide this.

As you can imagine this presentation provoked a lively discussion. Fears were expressed that business premises would not be open all the time, as are the present toilets, and Killearn does not have manned public buildings such as a library. The Community Council received assurances that our toilets would not be closed until a viable *CPS* was agreed. However, the sting in the tail came when Ian Henderson said because of the problems of last winter, all unheated toilets, of which Killearn is one, will be drained down and closed during the winter months. He went away from the meeting in the knowledge that the public toilets were a valued part of the village and must not be lost.

Ian Henderson of Stirling Council came to the October meeting of Killearn Community Council to describe a new public toilet initiative called *Comfort Partnership Scheme (CPS)*. It hopes that businesses and communities will agree to become part of the scheme. This is part of a consultation process which Stirling Council Officers have started with Community Council meetings in Balfroun, Killearn, Kippen, Drymen and other areas. The Community Council was assured that a number of local authorities in Scotland successfully operate this scheme including Perth and Kinross, Fife and Highland. There are also many others in England.

The *CPS* would involve partnerships with local hotels, pubs, other private businesses and public buildings prepared to make their facilities freely available for use by the public regardless of whether or not they are customers. In return, the businesses would receive an annual payment from the Council depending upon the standard of facility provided, free advertising on the Stirling Council website and new signage.

Many of the Council's public toilets are no longer fit for purpose and it is necessary to find alternative ways to provide this important service. Because

A formal response to this proposal has been sent by KCC to Stirling Council.

Further information on this scheme is available on the Stirling Council website at [www.stirling.gov.uk/comfort](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/comfort)

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# Fiona Chautard – Marketing Visionary

Fiona Chautard came to Killearn five years ago to live in a house originally owned by her grandfather and then by her uncle, Dan Warnock. She was born and brought up in Uplawmoor and was educated at Westbourne School and then at the Scottish College of Textiles from which she graduated with a degree in textile design. She worked with several companies which supplied knitwear to Marks & Spencer and quickly learned the business of designing, buying and marketing the finished article, enjoying the business process of bringing a designer's idea to a marketable item. She worked in Scotland, England, Germany and Holland, before returning to Glasgow where she directed a design into business programme for the Six Cities Design Festival 2007 at The Lighthouse.



Now she is self-employed, describing herself as a creative consultant, supporting clients in the fashion, textile, design and retail sectors. She is also the specialist fashion and textile adviser for the Cultural Enterprise Office, delivering support to creative businesses across Scotland. Having gained considerable design and business experience, Fiona now plans to concentrate on those areas of work that interest her most: namely, helping businesses design, make and market their products and services effectively.

Essentially a creative person, Fiona has ambitions for the Killearn Country Market, formerly known as The Wee Green Market, which she recently took over from Jacqui MacAlpine. She is passionately supportive of quality rural crafts and sees the Country Market as a means whereby local producers can showcase their products, taking them from working in an isolated situation to become an integral part of the community.

She feels that Killearn is a place where great talent exists and where the population appreciates quality. She would like to encourage small businesses to develop their skills in marketing and, conscious that many craft skills are no longer a part of the school curriculum, she has ambitions to provide a platform for the under-18s to develop both craft and business skills.

Alongside her passion for quality crafted goods, Fiona is concerned by the amount we waste in our society. Experience of living abroad showed her that other European countries are way ahead of us in recycling. Sorting and binning 'rubbish' for recycling has been happening in France and Germany for decades. "Everyone should take responsibility for everything they throw away" she says, and is enthusiastic about incorporating a 'freecycle' scheme alongside the Country Market. She is also interested in looking at how unwanted items could be 'upcycled', providing a second life

for vintage goods, made in an era where both materials and manufacturing were made to last, which could then be remodelled into products with contemporary appeal.

With her design and marketing skills, together with an optimistic philosophy born of her wide business experience, Fiona wishes to provide leadership to the Country Market that promises the growth of exciting enterprise in Killearn.

BP

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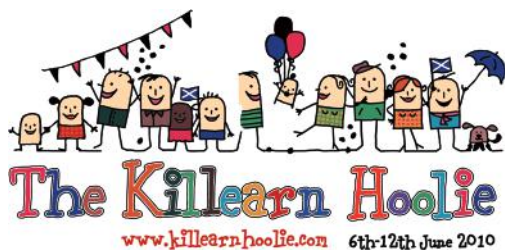
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## Hoolie Success Makes Funds Available

This year's Killearn Hoolie was a tremendous success in terms of enjoyment, attendance and support – by the community, local businesses and benefactors. The week of events was well organised, the weather was kind and all the Hoolie's main aims were achieved. As a result of this success, the venture has generated a useful financial surplus and some of this will be made available to support Killearn community activities with similar objectives.

The Hoolie set out to encourage community spirit and pride in our village, as well as having fun!

*Are you involved with a community organisation that operates in Killearn and could do more with the help of additional funding? If so, please contact Jennifer Brown, Killearn Hoolie Chairperson, on 01360 550681 for further details and funding criteria.*

Donations of a few up to several hundred pounds could be made available to suitable not-for-profit, group activities (rather than to individuals or to capital projects) so please get in touch if the Hoolie could help make a difference.

## It's a long way to Rowardennan. . .

...at least it is, if you're starting from Kelvinside in the west end of Glasgow – 33 miles to be precise.

One fine day in early September saw an unusual amount of foot traffic passing Killearn along the West Highland Way, as senior pupils from Kelvinside Academy undertook



Jenny Stewart and fellow runner crossing the finishing line

a sponsored walk from the school to Rowardennan. The destination was chosen as, during the war years, KA pupils had been evacuated to Rowardennan. Sponsorship for the 33-mile walk went to Erskine Hospital for ex-servicemen and women, a cause which is regularly supported by residents of Killearn. A staggering £13,231.72 was raised by 154 pupils through a lot of gritty determination, aching joints and sore feet and a cheque was presented to Major Jim Penton, Chief Executive of Erskine Hospital.

A combination of running and walking saw the fastest participant, Hugh Mackenzie, complete the cross-country route in 6 hours 9 minutes. Fastest girl was Killearn's Jenny Stewart in a record breaking time of 9 hours 44 minutes (despite getting lost twice – so much for local knowledge!) Jenny would like to thank local friends and neighbours who sponsored her so generously.

Weary pupils were cheered over the finish line by parents, staff and fellow pupils and the long day concluded with a well earned BBQ manned by PTA and Killearn parents.

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## Recipe for Christmas

### Bitter Chocolate and Chestnut Cake

#### Ingredients

300ml milk  
500g peeled chestnuts  
100g bitter chocolate (72% cocoa solids)  
4 eggs  
100g unsalted butter  
100g castor sugar  
10g cornflour  
70g ground almonds  
zest of 1 lemon

#### Method

In a saucepan boil the milk and chestnuts together and then reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for a further 30 minutes or until soft. Blend this mixture to a smooth puree and set aside.

Melt chocolate in a bowl over simmering water until smooth and lump free,

Add butter and stir until melted. In a separate bowl whisk eggs and sugar together until thick and creamy (sabayon) and set aside too.

Add cornflour and ground almond together, fold the chocolate mixture into the chestnut puree and then fold in the sabayon (egg mixture) incorporating them evenly and gently not to knock any air out of the mixture. Finally fold in the ground almonds, cornflour and lemon zest. Bake in a greased loose-bottomed cake tin for 40 minutes at 180°C. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin.

Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.



## Beef Wellington

Serves 6

Preparation time: 30 mins

Cooking time: 35 mins  
(medium rare)



#### Duxelle mixture

500g button or wild mushrooms  
1 large onion diced  
3 tbsp fresh chopped parsley  
Pinch of nutmeg

#### Beef wellington

1 beef fillet (centre cut approx 1kg)  
3 large savoury pancakes or 4 slices of Parma ham  
400g puff pastry  
Egg wash  
50g butter  
3 tbsp oil  
Salt and pepper

#### To prepare the Duxelle mixture:

- In a hot pan, melt a little butter and sweat down the onions and mushrooms, without colouring them, stirring occasionally.
- When cooked, remove from the heat and add the chopped parsley, nutmeg and season to taste. Leave the mixture to cool until needed.
- Once cooled puree in a food processor for 5-10 seconds (be careful not to go too far and end up with a puree you still want a farce consistency).

#### To prepare the Beef Wellington:

- Heat a little oil in a large frying pan, lightly season the beef fillet with salt and pepper and seal in the hot pan until golden. Leave to cool until needed.
- Take three pancakes or sliced Parma ham and lay them out so that they overlap each other in a rectangle shape.
- Spread the Duxelle mixture evenly over three-quarters of the surface area, leaving the edges free.
- Place the beef fillet on top of the mixture and neatly wrap in the pancakes or parma ham, making sure it is tightly covered.
- Roll out the puff pastry into an oblong shape 3mm thick. Take the wrapped beef fillet and neatly wrap it in the puff pastry with the seal underneath the fillet. Seal with a little egg wash and decorate with the leftover trimmings.
- Rest in the fridge for 20 minutes before baking.

Bake in a hot oven, 180°C/gas 6, for 35 minutes until golden brown.

Once cooked, rest for 10 minutes before carving.

*Note:* the beef should be medium rare.

These recipes were contributed by Darren Harrison, the chef from Loch Lomond Golf Club, (see above). Come and see Darren in action at Edenmill's Food Festival on 27/28 November. *Details on page 20.*

# Rural Bus Services Consultation

Stirling Council is to consult with local residents, Community Councils, Community Planning Partnerships and other representatives over new bus service contracts.

All Stirling Council contracts for subsidised local bus services in the Balfron, Drymen and Strathblane area and all contracts for Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services are due to expire at the end of March 2012. The Council intends to review the overall public transport network in the rural area, to match services to community needs. Some of these services are also supported by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT), who will also be involved in the service review process.

The consultation will be launched at a meeting of the *Rural South West Community Planning Forum to be held at 7 pm on Monday 22 November at Balfron High School*. Council officers will discuss the various issues with a wide spectrum of community representatives. As the consultation process unfolds, local residents, community groups and public transport users will be invited to submit their comments and suggestions.

A Stirling Council spokesperson said "This review will take place in an economic environment where reduction in public expenditure is a major objective. As it's unlikely that we'll be able to meet all community aspirations, it's vital that we identify, through consultation, which services are most valuable to the communities we serve."



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The collecting boxes and donation boxes will be available from **Monday, 6 December at the Killearn Pharmacy and Killearn Butchers**. Collections will be made daily. Deliveries will be made during the weeks commencing 11 and 18 December. There will also be a box in the Church on Sunday mornings.

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# Curling – First Stones



John O'Neill, Stan Moore and Fiona Glass in action against Corstorphine at Curl Aberdeen

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

The main club started their season with the traditional President v Vice-President bonspiel. This year there was a narrow win for our Vice-President, George Harris. The bonspiel was followed by a buffet at which our President Mike Jackson and Bob Glass demonstrated their skill at cooking curry!

We have sufficient members to play an eight-team league on Tuesdays both before and after Christmas, but could always do with more reserves.

The Ladies Section played their Opening Bonspiel at The Peak this year. It was won by Anne Roy's team of Rita Barth, Elean Bonner and Sheilagh Cooper, who won seven out of the eight ends played. The Ladies are playing a six-team league on Thursday mornings up to Christmas and a four-team double round robin after Christmas. Again they would welcome more reserves.

In September we had our annual Texas scramble and general knowledge quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. We were fortunate with the weather again for the golf!

The Club was involved in the usual Province games against other local clubs and on 23 October we had two teams playing for the North in the Third Indoor Grand Match between the North and South of Scotland. Fiona Glass, Stan Moore, John O'Neill and Gill Smith played against Corstorphine in Aberdeen and Mike and Diana Jackson and Jim and Betty Meikle played at Kelso against Bellshill. For the record, both teams lost their matches by 6 shots to 11 and 3 shots to 8 respectively.

The statistics of the Grand Match are that it took place at 15 ice rinks, there were 270 games and in theory 2,160 players. The North lost to the South by 1,766 shots to 2,159.

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

Stan Moore (550800) or Mike Jackson (550314)  
or look at our website at [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk)



The Ladies Opening Bonspiel winners: Sheilagh Cooper, Elean Bonner, Anne Roy and Rita Barth.

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# Rugby Roundup – 'Endrick Flying High



The 2nd XV have a really tough fixture list against teams from much larger clubs such as West of Scotland and Hillhead Jordanhill, but they are putting up consistently good performances every week.

Strathendrick Minis are concentrating on P4, P5 and P6 teams this season – with the P5s being particularly strong and winning the Waysiders

Drumpelier Tournament. New coaches are being introduced to the set-up replacing long-serving predecessors. For information on the Minis or to find out more about coaching or helping please contact Iain Somerville on 01360 550842.

The Club is collaborating with Balfour High School, working with the secondary school Midi age groups. The School has plenty of players but insufficient regular fixtures so Strathendrick is organising games, providing facilities and support from Development Coach Drew MacDonald.

Add to this superb, re-vamped lounge facilities at Fintry Sports Club, successful social nights and a tour planned for March – Strathendrick Rugby Club is in rude health!

To get involved or for information on fixtures, news and events visit: [www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrhc](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrhc)

Strathendrick's ambitions for this season are firstly for the 1st XV to win promotion, secondly for the 2nd XV to fulfil all their fixtures, thirdly to increase collaboration across the Club – juniors, seniors and social members, next to go on tour and finally...to have fun! To date it appears that we are on the way to achieving all these aims.

The 1st XV are enjoying their best start to a season for some years. As the Courier went to print, they have won all their league games so far – each with a bonus point – averaging over 40 points scored per game. Long may it continue! But with Lenzie enjoying the same 100% record, there is everything to play for and promotion could well be decided by the home and away fixtures between the two league leaders. In the first two rounds of the Regional Bowl competition the Fintry side scored 67 points against Hyndland and over 100 against Braidholm, conceding none! Sterner tests lie ahead but it is a great start.

Strathendrick Rugby Club is in rude health!

To get involved or for information on fixtures, news and events visit:

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# Killearn Football Club

At the end of season 2010, Killearn Football Club had added a further two awards to their total of 34, won in the previous 99 years of the Club's history, making it a successful centenary year.

By winning 19 of the team's 22 leagues matches, scoring 96 goals and conceding only 23, the Club finished top of the Leslie League, five points ahead of nearest challengers, Fintry. The average of over four goals scored per match earned the team runner-up spot in the Salmon Leap Shield.

Since 2000, the Club has reached the final of the Telfer Cup six times and by defeating Thornhill 4-3 in an exciting final this year, Killearn made it six wins out of six. The winning team is pictured below. The only down side to the season was defeat in the semi-final of the Cameron Cup after extra time and penalty kicks.

Off the park, the players and committee had a very active season, being involved in events for the Killearn Hoolie and, as one of the founder members of the Forth & Endrick FA, staging this year's Millennium Trophy. The players took part in fundraising ventures such as the Race Night and Ben Lomond Marathon and the money raised will hopefully be used for changing facilities next to the park. We are moving towards achieving this and we hope to be able to report in the next edition of the Courier that a definite plan is in place.

The Club would like to thank the Old Mill Inn for sponsoring the team and also everyone who has supported the players and the Club in many different ways during our centenary year.

*Donnie Beaton*

*Photo by Catriona Thomson*



Back Row: Kris Buchanan, Ian Crawford, Alan Challis, Johnnie Fraser, Ross Beaton, Andrew Maccoll, Stuart Ashworth, Callum Gillies, Taylor Stobo

Front Row: James Maccoll, Scott Norval, Alan More, David Cameron, Ryan Campbell, David Copland, Fraser Cameron

# Killearn Tennis Club

As we near the end of the season we can look back with a tremendous sense of achievement. This year, the award of Charter status was a real step forward in the Club's development. We now have recognised guidelines and codes of conduct are affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association and support its good practice and advice.

Last year, indoor sessions were held in the Village Hall and the standard of play really improved. This is a direct result of our juniors playing throughout the year on a regular basis. Well done to some of our juniors who have been accepted into winter performance squads. This year Chris and Janey are branching out with their own indoor sessions at Balforn High School and the Village Hall for the younger ones. This new venture, called Tennis Tigers and Cubs, began in early November

Our men's singles club championships reached its finale as this Courier went to print. We are desperately seeking ladies. Come on girls – if the men can do it so can we! We will continue to meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings, weather permitting. All levels are welcome so please come and join in.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters and helpers especially, David Brunger and Tricia Scott who help on Friday nights.

We are now looking forward to next year and hope to see some new faces. Please come along and give tennis a try. Everyone is welcome.

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# Elizabeth (Liz) Stuart 1946 – 2010



Liz was born in the Stirling area and with her younger sister Ros, was brought up in Eaglesham. She was educated at Broomlea School and on leaving trained as a nursery nurse. She gained much experience in day nurseries, nursery schools and hospital nurseries in Glasgow and in London, experience which included supervising naptime in a nursery in one of the poorer areas of Glasgow armed with a cricket bat – to keep the rats at bay!

Liz met Derek and they married in 1976 and settled in Killearn. Their two sons, John and Jamie were born in the next few years. Liz was a devoted wife and mother, providing a comfortable home and welcoming to it the many members of their wider family.

She and Derek were caretakers of the Village Hall for a number of years, after which Liz worked in the Co-op. Through these jobs Liz knew, and was known by, most people in the village. Regarded as a bit of a character who could speak her mind, Liz was, nonetheless, a cheerful and sociable personality. She quickly forgot any disputes and had a great sense of humour. She retained an unshakable pride in her family and all they meant to her.

Poor health dogged her final years but Liz fought bravely as her illness gradually overtook her.

To Derek, John and Jamie the Courier offers sympathy in their loss.

BP

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# Jessie Munro 1931 – 2010



Jessie Munro was born and brought up at Shillingworth Farm, Bridge of Weir. Her education was at the local primary school and at Paisley Grammar School and for a time at the 'Dough' School in Glasgow, but in her early teens, the death of her father meant her help was needed in the running of the farm. Here she learned to turn her hand to a range of farming tasks and housekeeping duties.

She married David in 1953 and almost immediately after the wedding the young couple moved to Kincardineshire where David was ordained and Jessie became the Minister's wife, a role in which she proved to be the ideal support and companion to her husband in his ministry. She played her own part in the life of the church with dedication, in particular being very active in the Woman's Guild and holding office in a number of branches for many years.

The marriage was blessed by three daughters, and later by five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Jessie delighted in family life and personified the ideals of love, selflessness and humility as a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Her ready smile and gracious manner endeared her to all. She will be sadly missed in the village and beyond.

The Courier offers sympathy to David and the family.

BP

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# David Marshall Aitken 1922 – 2010



Born in Kirkintilloch, David attended both primary and secondary school there before studying painting, decorating and sign-writing at night school. He joined the Glasgow Fire Service early in the second World War, during which time he was on duty in Clydebank when it was bombed. He was called up to the Royal Engineers and served out his time for the remainder of the war in Palestine and Egypt building defensive positions and erecting bridges. After the war he returned to painting and decorating, but soon after changed to driving long-distance trucks for Thermotank. In 1960 he met Margaret MacKay and after their marriage they moved to Killearn with her daughters Jane and Francis. After a few years, the family was completed by the birth of daughter Alexis. Around this time David went to work for Stewart Cameron of Drymen until his retirement in 1978. He was a quiet man, an animal lover and accomplished accordion player. All enjoyed his music until he was forced through ill health to give it up. He is missed by family, friends and neighbours.

The Courier offers sympathy to Margaret and family.

*Jim Fallas.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Killearn Courier

Many thanks for the tickets to see "Joseph" which I won in your crossword competition. It was a magical show and our seats were ideal. Thank also to the King's Theatre staff who were so helpful.

Yours sincerely  
Pat Ashworth

**Try this edition's crossword on the next page, and don't forget to hand it in to Spar for a chance to win!**

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## Don't give thieves a chance



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Together for safer communities

It is often the case as winter approaches and the days become shorter that crimes such as thefts by housebreaking and thefts from motor vehicles increase. While things have been relatively quiet in Killearn over the past number of months there are indications that this may not remain the case.

Towards the end of September and during the first few weeks of October there were a number of thefts and break-ins in the Blanefield and Mugdock areas. The items of property which have most notably been targeted are those which have not been secured. Examples of the crimes being committed include the theft of motor vehicles (on occasions where keys have been left in the ignition) and the thefts of several high value bicycles. Without exception, the stolen bicycles have been left unsecured in unlocked garages or outhouses.

While Killearn has not experienced the same volume of crime as other villages, it has not escaped untouched. During September a number of chainsaws were stolen from properties in the village and, as recently as mid-October, a housebreaking occurred in the Lampson Road area where a quantity of valuable jewellery was stolen.

It is very important that we make life as difficult as possible for thieves. For residents of Killearn it is therefore imperative that you take all reasonable steps to secure your property, for example:

- *don't leave garages and cars unlocked at any time during the day or night*
- *don't leave valuable items in view within your car*
- *keep items such as house and car keys well out-of-view and out-of-reach in your home*
- *secure bicycles by chaining two or three together within your garage*
- *if your house is vacant when darkness falls time a light to turn on and consider tuning a radio into a talk station*
- *report ANYTHING you consider to be suspicious to the police and do it immediately*

Officers from Balfour Police Office patrol Killearn and the other west Stirlingshire villages 24-hours a day with the intention of disrupting and detecting the thieves. With your assistance we can make it difficult for them to commit crime in this area and ultimately drive the problem out.

*David McNally  
Community Police Officer*



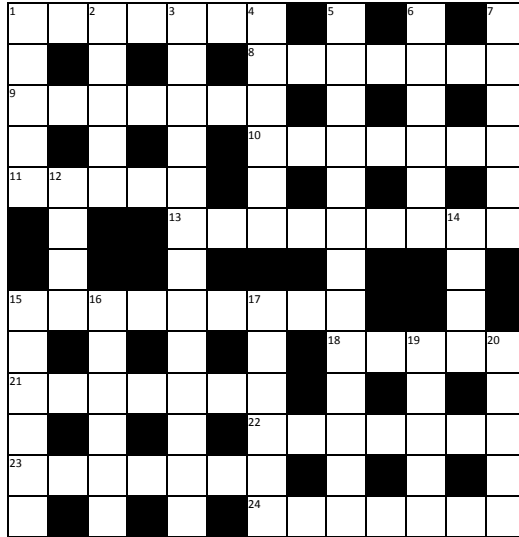
Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar. The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing Date: 8 January 2011

**Welcome to King's Theatre and Theatre Royal, Glasgow**

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**Solution to the last Crossword** Across: 1 toot; 3 feverfew; 8 erne; 9 never run; 11 limelights; 14 bunkum; 15 hoolie; 17 appetisers; 20,24 treasure hunt; 22 caffeine 23 bass. Down: 1 the Glebe; 2 ointment; 4 energy; 5 electronic; 7,6 wind farm; 10 flour paste; 12 alleluia; 13 websites; 16 neuron; 18 otic; 19 leaf.

**ACROSS**

1. Now, that's a gift! (7)
8. Move around her river (7)
9. A revolutionary - gosh, together at school (7)
10. I heard grass cutters were icy and cold (7)
11. A titbit is dug right in (5)
13. Maybe rigged the far side opposite (5,4)
15. Song about gold vehicle and prickly tree (9)
18. Knight with space gives noisy warning (5)
22. Splash out when left in plant (7)
21. Put into words emptying - change centre (7)
23. A hermit before something small (7)
24. Back about 11 (7)

**DOWN**

1. Bloomer when first train follows map (5)
2. Avoid first woman holding short notice (5)
3. Eternal critic about 5 (8,5)
4. Pursuing case in court can be annoying (6)
5. 1 under a festive tree (9,4)
6. Festive wine considered (6)
7. Tenant in articles seen by him (6)
12. Behind listener right in front (4)
14. Pheasant may be 5 (4)
15. Sales I go around are between the shelves (6)
16. Remove head from aunts to make friends (6)
17. A border raider puts drug in flower (6)
19. I have ears around to go up (5)
20. Close to the start, no the end of the day (5)

Name ..... Phone No. ....

Address .....

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: *Christine Howe, Killearn*



**CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by SPAR**

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

*Find 10 differences in the picture on the right and ring them. Write your name, address and age below, cut out the pictures and place in the box in Spar to win a £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years or under.*



Name ..... Age.....

Address ..... Phone No. ....

**Congratulations to the winners of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Ross and Shona Michie**

**Closing Date for both competitions – 8 January 2011. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.**

# Have a Gander at Geese

We tend to associate wild geese with winter but they actually begin to appear in our skies as early as the first week in September. From Arctic climes they motor south in large skeins, eventually touching down in long favoured fields across Europe.

Scotland contains internationally important sites for several species which spend the winter in the UK. The two species of grey geese that you are most likely to encounter around Killearn are the Greylag Goose (our naturalised breeding population is boosted by Icelandic visitors in winter) and, my favourite, the Pink-footed Goose. The latter species is quite distinctive due to its smaller size, dainty black and pink bill and dark brown head and neck. As its name suggests, it also sports pink feet- and pink legs for that matter! Our Pink-feet come from breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland, many of them spending the whole winter in Scotland with others flying further south to do so in England.



Watching these birds can be tricky as they are generally wary. They spend much of their time on farmland feeding on crop stubble and winter cereals. A car however makes an excellent hide and geese can be watched at reasonable

distance if you park sensibly at the side of the road and look into their chosen field with binoculars or a telescope. Stepping out of the car inevitably leads to the birds flying off. In doing so they make loud, high-pitched cackling calls to warn each other of the perceived threat.

We are also close to one of the wintering grounds of Greenland White-fronted Geese at the south-east corner of Loch Lomond. For the ultimate spectacle however, visit either Vane Farm RSPB reserve at Loch Leven

for thousands of Pink-footed Geese (late autumn or March best) or Caerlaverock WWT Reserve on the Solway Firth for huge flocks of the charismatic Barnacle Goose.

*Martin Culshaw*



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# Lomond School

## Every day is an open day



**New Lomond School bus service**  
serving Killearn, Drymen and Gartocharn  
starts 6th January 2011. Please contact the school for details.

Lomond School offers an academic education that will stretch and extend your child to their full potential with a strong extra curricular programme of sport, music, drama and outdoor activity.

We warmly welcome families to see round the school, meet staff and pupils and find out more about the unique opportunities that our pupils from Killearn and surrounding areas are enjoying. Just make an appointment to visit any time.

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Lomond School is a co-educational HMC Independent School.