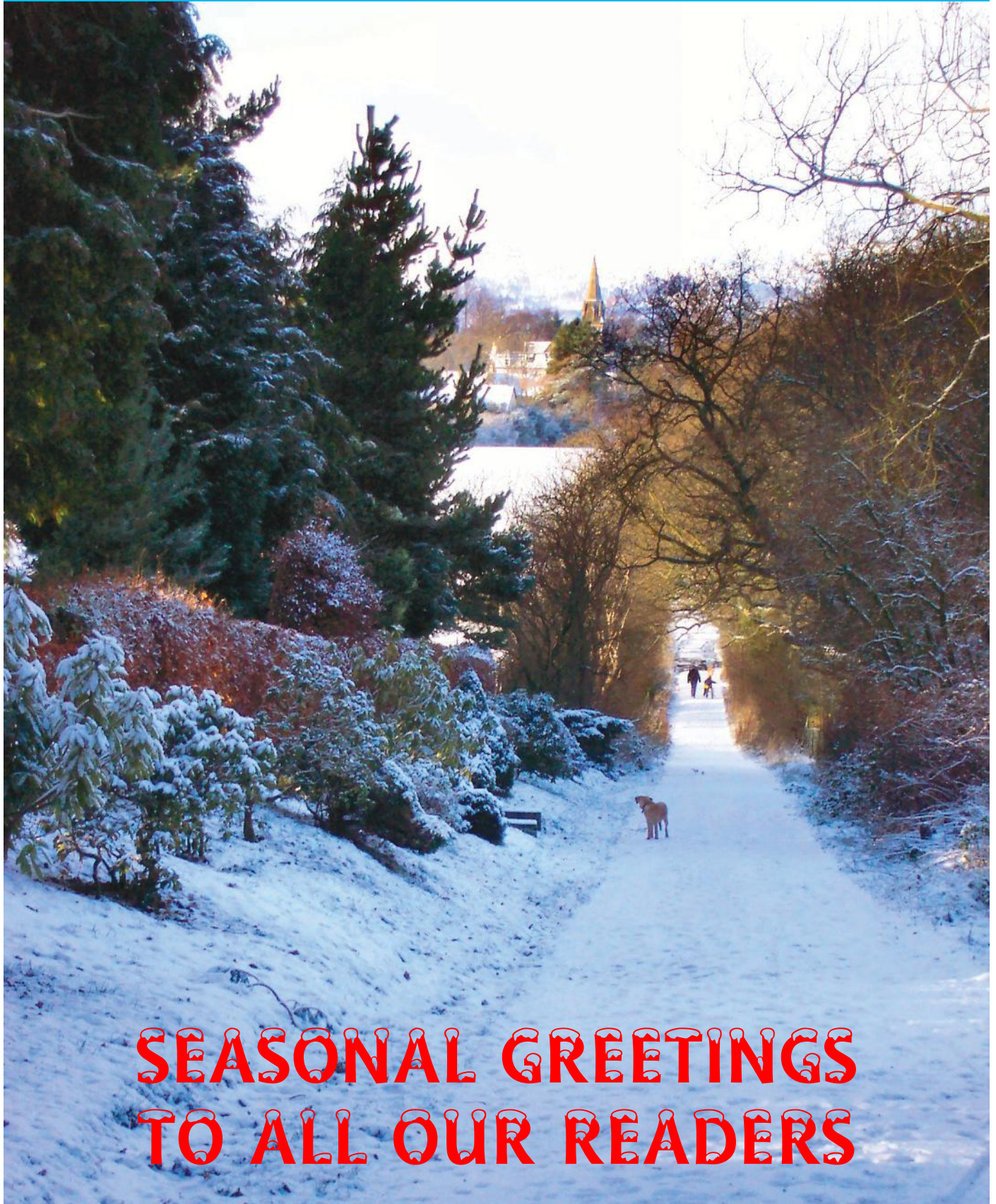




ISSUE 15

WINTER 2009

£1



**SEASONAL GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS**

A Lesson Learned

You may have noticed a few handwritten posters appearing on lampposts and litter bins, obviously designed and executed by children. These should be taken to heart by us all, child and adult alike, as they implore us to conserve energy by switching lights off, not to despoil the environment by dropping litter and to save the planet by recycling our waste.

Intrigued, the *Courier* decided to investigate. The notices brought to our attention that the whole of Killearn Primary School is enthusiastically involved in the Eco-Schools Project (www.ecoschoolsscotland.org), was awarded bronze and silver in 2005 and is now working towards the gold award. It is obviously making an impact on the children.

Each class is doing a different aspect of caring for the environment. For example, Primary 5/6 is doing a project on litter, finding out what comprises litter, how effective different styles of notices are, what sort of bins encourage their use and so on. But this is not just classroom theory. If you look over the school hedge at lunchtime, you will see one of the class, complete with protective apron, a litter picker, a plastic sack and a clipboard going around the school grounds picking up each piece of litter and recording it. This survey not only shows what is causing the litter, but how effective the message not to drop litter is getting across.

Although the *Courier* cannot support fly-posting around the village, it is encouraging that the teaching has been so effective that at least some of the youngsters have been motivated to go out into the community and do what they can to make us all understand that it is their future that we are so carelessly putting at risk. I am sure the children will be able to persuade the custodians of various village notice boards to display their posters.

Truly a lesson learned.

PW



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Killearn Courier
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Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 13 March 2010.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 29 January. Contact *Gwen Stewart* on 550856 or *Sara Hudson* on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 29 January. Send them to: 2 Elder Road, Killearn or email to courier@kcfc.co.uk

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Editorial

Well, here we are almost at the end of another year. By the time you read this issue, 2010 is about six weeks away! Where does the time go? Have you had a good year?

We at the *Courier* have had a pretty good year; we won another couple of awards, we had to increase our number of pages per issue due to the contributions from our readers and our advertisers and we continue to be well supported by the community. We receive a lot of complimentary remarks which makes the production of the *Courier* all worthwhile and pleases members of the group no end, so thank you very much.

Around the time this issue is being delivered, there will be Services of Remembrance taking place all over the country. Indeed, the next project by All Killearn Archives is on the Second World War which ties in with our freshened up War Memorial and resulted in a couple of articles about evacuees. We've devoted pages 18 and 19 to this subject and if you think you can contribute, contact AKA.

Once again, we've tried to give a Christmas feel to this issue and have highlighted where you can shop locally. It really is quite amazing what can be sourced on our doorstep. The centre pages have been given over to many of our local businesses and we've done it alphabetically. So, let's have a bit of fun, after all, it's getting near Christmas. You will remember Cliff Richard's version of the Christmas Alphabet, you know the one "C is for the candy trimmed around the Christmas tree, H is for the happiness with all the family, R is for the....." and so on. Well, get the tune into your head and read our centre pages, you'll like it!

Once again, many thanks to all our readers, contributors, advertisers and helpers.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



20 Nov	Strathendrick Country Dance Club <i>Annual Charity Dance</i>	Village Hall	7.00-11.30pm
24 Nov	Strathendrick Film Society – <i>Star Trek</i> .	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
26 Nov	Killearn Parish Hall AGM	Village Hall	8.00pm.
26 Nov	Drymen History Soc. <i>The Quarriers Story Talk by Anna Magnusson</i>	Drymen Village Hall	7.45pm
27 Nov	Killearn PTA. Bag 2 School	School Playground	8.45-9.15am
28 Nov	PTA. Christmas Fayre	Village Hall	10.30-1.00pm
	Guild Sale of Work	Church Hall	2.00pm
	Get Reel Ceilidh	Village Hall	7.30-11.00pm.
1 Dec to 5	FADS Pantomime, Dick Whittington <i>Tickets & Information-860078</i>	Fintry Village Hall & Sat Matinee	7.30pm 2.00pm
4 Dec	Friday Night Youth Project	Village Hall	
5 Dec	Wee Green Market	Village Hall	10am - 1.00pm
11 Dec	Strathendrick Singers Carol Concert	Killearn Kirk	7.00pm
	The Kirk Youth Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
13 Dec	Strathendrick Cycling Club, <i>Cycle along old railway line to Buchlyvie</i>	Woolen Mill Car Park, Aberfoyle	11.00am. Info:- Morag Jervis 660437
18 Dec	Friday Night Youth Project	Village Hall	
22 Dec	Strathendrick Film Soc. <i>My Neighbour Totoro Annual free matinee</i>	Balfron Campus	2.00pm
8 Jan	Strathendrick Film Soc. <i>I've Loved You so Long</i>	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
10 Jan	Strathendrick Cycling Club Meet on B822 at junction of Arnprior Rd. <i>Cycle to Fintry Info:- M Jervis 660437</i>		11.00am
15 Jan	Old Folks Bingo	Village Hall	7.30pm
30 Jan	PTA. Burns Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am-12noon
3 Feb	Horticultural Soc. Gardens of the Riviera <i>Illustrated talk by Louise Bustard of Glasgow Botanic Gardens followed by Annual Business Meeting</i>	Village Hall	7.30pm
6 Feb	Wee Green Market	Village Hall	10am - 1.00pm
12 Feb	Strathendrick Film Soc. Easy Virtue	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
13 Feb	Strathendrick Singers Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.00am
14 Feb	Strathendrick Cycling Club Meet at Drymen Square bus stop <i>Run on country roads & forest tracks to Balmaha for lunch.</i>		11.00am
19 Feb	Strathendrick Film Soc. <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
25 Feb	Drymen History Society <i>Excavations in the Kilpatrick Hills by Euan Mackie</i>	Drymen Village Hall	7.45pm
27 Feb	Jumble Sale for Malawi	Village Hall	10.00am
5 Mar	Strathendrick Film Soc, <i>Revolutionary Road</i>	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
6 Mar	Wee Green Market	Village Hall	10am - 1.00pm
12 Mar	Horticultural Soc Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm
14 Mar	Strathendrick Cycling Club Meet Balloch Park <i>Cycle along river Leven to Bowling. Info:- M Jervis 660437</i>	Car Park	
19 Mar	PTA X-Factor	Village Hall	7.00-9.30pm
25 Mar	Drymen History Soc, <i>Aberfoyle Slate Quarry by Louis Stott.</i>	Drymen Village Hall	7.45pm
26 Mar	Strathendrick Film Soc. <i>Conversations with my Gardener</i>	Balfron Campus	7.30pm
27 Mar	Strathendrick Singers Spring Concert	Killearn Kirk	7.00pm
31 Mar	Rotary Concert Central Police Band	Village Hall	7.00pm

If you have any dates for the March 2010 issue of the Diary (mid March to mid August), please contact Pat Ryall (550713)

Extreme DIY!

Donna McKay (nee MacColl) was relaxed as she looked forward to the arrival of her third child. Intermittent contractions on the Tuesday evening didn't stop the rest of the family going off to school and work as usual the next day.

It wasn't until teatime on Wednesday that the pace started to quicken. With children, Caitlin and Calum in safe hands, husband Ewan 'Pieman' McKay packed Donna into the car for the run into The Queen Mother's. But even by Blanefield it was clear that the baby was arriving somewhat more quickly than expected! Contractions were rapid and things were starting to happen!

By the canal at Anniesland, Donna screamed to Ewan that the baby was coming and they had to stop. Pieman screeched to a halt in Morrison's car park at Anniesland Cross – reclining the front seat with one hand, making Donna as comfortable as possible and calling the ambulance service with the other. Unfortunately the switchboard couldn't direct an ambulance even to Morrison's at Anniesland Cross without a road name! But fortunately a somewhat gob-smacked staff member from Curry's provided the necessary information.

And so it was, at teatime on Wednesday 16 September, that Ruairidh McKay was born in Morrison's car park – in the front seat of his Dad's pick-up, delivered by his own father. Mum didn't panic and Dad calmly unwrapped the cord from around the baby's neck just as the paramedics arrived!

Pieman is a leading member of Strathendrick Rugby Club so he is clearly a safe pair of hands and, as an experienced sheep farmer, there's no doubt that delivering all those lambs stood him in good stead on this occasion.

Some arrival Ruairidh! Well done Donna, well done Pieman, congratulations all.

NH



Donna and Ewan McKay with Caitlin, Calum and new baby Ruairidh

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Killearn Primary School

Grounds Gang reported by Primary 4



Ross Michie, Jenna Clark and Mrs Cushing show that gardening can be fun!

Every Wednesday for the past month we have been working with Mrs Cushing to tidy up and plant bulbs in our school plant tubs.

We soon realised that two of the tubs were breaking up and Mrs Cushing contacted Glengoyne Distillery to ask if they had any barrels we could have. They very kindly gave us one large barrel and Mr MacDonald our school janitor worked hard to cut it in half.

The Grounds Gang then set to work repotting and planting the tubs. We can't wait to see our tubs in the spring.

Mrs Cushing has been a fantastic help and we all would like to thank her very much for giving us her time and help.

Bramble Picking

In September Primary 1 went bramble picking and made some very delicious Sweet Berry Apple and Bramble Jelly. Comments from family members who sampled it included:

"Best jam I have tasted for as long as I can remember"

"...really fruity and tasty and not too sugary"

"...lovely spread on top of warm crumpets"



Teddy Bears Hat Parade



In October Primary 2 had a Teddy Bear Hat Fashion Show. We designed and made hats for our teddy bears. We walked up and down the catwalk and we showed our Teddy Hats to Primary 1. It was fantastic fun and we all really enjoyed it.

Primary 7 Power Rangers

This year Primary 7's Eco School remit is to be energy busters which means our job is to keep track of the school's use of energy and to try to find ways of cutting down the amount we use. On Monday 7 September we had an Energy Saving Day for our class and saved the school £13.52!

Another idea our class and our teacher, Mrs Hornbuckle, came up with was to hold an Energy Fair. We aimed this at parents but we had to make it understandable for the children at school also. Activities included what Killearn might look like in 30 years' time if we continue to waste energy, a PowerPoint Presentation, our own inventions to save energy presented like 'The Dragon's Den' and inviting our visitors to make energy saving pledges. We got really positive feedback. Parents and teachers were all very impressed and said they were amazed at how much we had done in such a short time.



Killearn Kirk

Since Rev Philip Malloch retired as Minister of Killearn Kirk in the summer, life in the kirk has not stood still. Rev David Munro has been very active as our Locum Minister, taking most of the Sunday services and looking after the pastoral needs of the parish (he can be contacted on 550098, email david.munro1929@btinternet.com). Dr Andrew Weir has also taken some services, and Rev Alex Macpherson, from Drymen, is our Interim Moderator, responsible for 'vacancy business' and in charge of the process for finding a new Minister.

We were very pleased to welcome Robin Versteeg as our new organist in September. Robin and his wife Emma have recently moved to Balforn, and, while we are very grateful to those who helped out in recent years by supporting the musical worship in the church, we are delighted that Robin is bringing his considerable talents to the service of the Killearn Kirk congregation.

Tim Burnham, our church youth worker, has introduced regular weekly evening sessions this autumn, including table football, table tennis, Wii, and pool table, for Killearn teenagers, each Friday at 8pm in the Church Hall – 'the Friday night thing'. Numbers attending have been good, and all teenagers are welcome.

Our quest for a new Minister is progressing. The post has been advertised in the November issue of the Church of Scotland's magazine *Life & Work*, and we are looking forward to meeting with those who are interested. The 'parish profile', providing information on the church and parish for potential applicants is available at www.killearnkirk.org.uk

Abbeyfield Entertained



Abbeyfield residents were pleased to welcome the Thursday Club members when the Primary One class from Killearn school came along to entertain them.

The event was enjoyed immensely by all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir,

Please publish the following apology:

The Parish of Killearn (3rd edition)

The editor, Fiona Glass, omitted Dr. Mike Ridd from the list of contributors (Geology) and also Dr. Judith Lawson (Stone) and apologises sincerely.

Yours etc., Fiona Glass.

Edenmill Christmas Food Festival

As you can see from the advertisement on the facing page, Edenmill Farm, on the Stockiemuir Road above Blanefield, will be hosting a Christmas Food Festival on Saturday 28 November 2009 between 10am and 5pm.

There will be a food marquee with cookery demonstrations by Tom Lewis of Monachyle Mhor Hotel, Balquhider, Iain Brown of Glasgow's Ubiquitous Chip and others.

There will also be indoor stalls selling jewellery, handbags, glassware, woven goods as well as food stalls selling packaged foods and gift sets. Stalls include: Old Mill Gift Shop, Caurnie Soap Co, Mhor Bakery, Pestle and Mortar Deli, Scotia Spice, Loch Fyne Oysters, Edenmill Farm Shop, Glengoyne Distillery, Dandelion Artisan Bakery, West Beer and Kelly Bronze Turkeys.

There will be a range of hot food on sale and Glengoyne will run a licensed bar.

For children there will be a Santa's Grotto and an outdoor area housing baby animals, pets and reindeer.

The entry fee is £2 per adult.

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Killearn Gardens Open Day



Visitors enjoying Mr & Mrs Burt's garden

Killearn Horticultural Society organised its third garden open day under the auspices of Scotland's Gardens Scheme.

Killearn was definitely on the map on a very sunny 5 July as more than 280 people arrived to check out the nine gardens which opened their gates to garden lovers from as far afield as Dunfermline and Ayr. None were disappointed and all found things of interest in one or other of the very diverse gardens which ranged through all sizes and styles of gardening. Crossroads provided most welcome cream teas for foot-weary visitors. The day netted a profit of £1,701, 40% of which went to Crossroads and 60% to Scotland's Gardens Scheme's own charities.

The stars were of course the gardeners who had invested many weeks of time and effort to produce gardens for visitors to enjoy.

Our thanks go to the gardeners:

*Mr & Mrs Wright, Mr & Mrs Phillips,
Mr & Mrs MacKinnon, Mr & Mrs Veitch,
Mr & Mrs Burt, Mr & Mrs McFarlane,
Mr & Mrs Knox, Mr & Mrs Connor.*

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Killearn Horticultural Show



Once again the people of Killearn did us proud this year, amassing over 700 entries for our Annual Show, which was opened by Mrs Jane Wilson. The numbers and quality of the exhibits certainly surpassed our expectations this year. Most surprising given the wind and rain in the weeks before the Show was a substantial increase in the flower entries. There was a wide range of trophy winners this year mostly local, but a number from further afield.

As always the tearoom with our home baking proved very popular. Of interest in the Church Hall also were the entries in the baking, preserves and children's section. Crafts were there to be admired too but not so many as last year – so start your knitting, embroidery, etc. now in time for next August!

With thanks to the whole village for their support of the show.

Glenda Asquith

Strathendrick Classic Car Club



The car chosen for this publication is a 1995 Jaguar XJS Convertible owned by Jim Bisset, currently Treasurer and founding Chairman of the Club.

The Jaguar XJS was first introduced in 1975 as a replacement for the iconic E Type. It was not an out-and-out sports car as the E Type had been, but a grand tourer capable of high performance in great comfort. The XJS was eventually replaced by the XK8 in 1976 after a life

span of 31 years. Although the XJS had some problems initially these were gradually sorted out so that the later models had practically indestructible mechanics and a body that was well protected against rust and corrosion.

Jim's car was manufactured in 1995, the last full year of production and is termed a 'Celebration' model to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the first Jaguar produced by William Lyons. The car,

which is a convertible model, has a 4.0 litre straight six engine, and, in common with all other Celebration models, has special wood finishes and all the goodies that one could wish for. The car remains in immaculate, original and unrestored condition.

The power hood on the convertible is easy to erect and is wind and watertight and yet can be lowered in a few seconds, if we ever get a blink of sun.

This is the eighth Jaguar that Jim has owned and he remains an enthusiast of the marque despite the many changes in ownership of Jaguar over the years.

Philip Pain

The weather has done strange things to the club events this summer. A good number of members took part in the annual Rotary Club rally, and the event took place in good weather. This was followed by rain, and the wet condition of the showground put our annual participation in the Drymen Show in doubt. As a result, our event, which decided the club's annual championship, was changed to the open roads. The weather, needless to say, improved, and the show proceeded without us! The championship was won by Laurence Grainger, in a Bentley. This was followed by a run with the Helensburgh Club. We take it in turns to run this event, and this year was their turn. The run included the old 'rest and be thankful' which the cars tackled with varying degrees of verve. This was followed by a good lunch in Inverary.

July saw some members join in the RSAC Three Lochs rally, which included Lochs Lomond, Long and Fyne. A notably successful event was the Caledonian Historical Motor Sport Club's International Auto Ecosse Rally, attended by no less than 48 cars from Holland. One of our members, Joe Norman, won the event in his Mini, and another, Donald Brown, in his MGA coupe, won his class. Our annual club run took place in warm sunny weather through some wild country, and for a good part on single track roads, and those who participated had a good lunch, sitting outside overlooking the moored boats at the new marina at Portavadie. September saw our last organised run of the year before weather and early nights shift our activities indoors. This was a short early evening run followed by a meal at the Beech Tree Inn.

We have a programme of events running through until next June, and anyone who would like to come along should contact our secretary, Phillip Pain at 01360 550752 or phillip.pain@btinternet.com

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A Choice Present

As the thorny problem of what to give for Christmas rears its head, Julie Edmonstone shares her idea of giving a catalogue and gift voucher from one of our excellent nursery gardens who specialise in mail order to those with gardens or patios. Here are her recommendations from among Scotland's best:

For a full description and photograph of plants from any of these nurseries I recommend *Garden Plants for Scotland* by Kenneth Cox of Glendoick and Raoul Curtis Machim (Frances Lincoln £25). It has rapidly achieved biblical status and would make an excellent present in its own right!

Cockers in Aberdeen have won many prestigious awards for the breeding of new varieties of roses. I feel reassured that being acclimatised to our weather their roses will fare better than their southern cousins. Cockers was founded in 1840 by the present owner's ancestor who left his employers, Castle Fraser estates, in protest at having to pick fruit on the Sabbath! Their current best-sellers are Alec's Red, Heart of Gold, Glenfiddich, Gordon's College, Rob Roy, Shining Light and Morning Jewel. (www.roses.uk.com)

To commemorate all sorts of occasions, a tree or ornamental shrub makes a superb present and I thoroughly recommend the Tree Shop (Ardkinglas Estate Nurseries) at Lochfyne which has a large and tempting selection of trees, shrubs and rhododendrons ranging from Scottish native to rare and unusual. (Tel: 01499 600 263 www.scottishtrees.co.uk)

For rhododendron lovers you can't do better than the famous Glendoick Nursery and Garden Centre on the Perth-Dundee road. Three generations of the Cox family have established Glendoick as an international mecca for rhododendron enthusiasts, although it also stocks a wide range of azaleas, ericaceous plants, hydrangeas etc. Kenneth Cox recommends R. Everred (the first rhododendron with red leaves), R. Curlew, R. Pachysanthum for its silvery foliage and Azalea Luteum for its scented yellow flowers. (Tel: 01738 860 205 www.glendoick.com)

One of Scotland's most favourite nursery garden centres, Binnys has a well deserved reputation for quality plants and good service. It grows and stocks around 2,500 species of perennials, trees, shrubs and grasses, including a National Collection of 300+ paeony cultivars. (Tel: 01506 858 931 www.binnypants.co.uk)

Two highly respected nurseries in the borders are Lambertons of Berwick (www.lambertonnursery.co.uk) and Edrom Nurseries, Eyemouth. They specialise in alpines and an exciting range of unusual woodland plants. (Tel: 01890 771 386 www.edromnurseries.co.uk)

Michael Wickenden of Cally Gardens in Gatehouse of Fleet displays thousands of unusual perennials in 33 large borders as well as some rare shrubs and conservatory plants. (www.callygardens.co.uk)

Abriachan Nursery on Loch Ness, owned by Margaret and Don Davidson, specialises in primula, helianthemum (rock roses), crocosmia, hardy geraniums and plants from New Zealand. (Tel: 01463 861 232 www.lochnessgarden.com).

Two of Scotland's finest plantswomen who both run excellent nurseries and mail order are Stella Rankin of Kevock Garden Plants in Midlothian and Elizabeth MacGregor of Ellenbank Nurseries in Kircudbright. Stella Rankin's mantra is 'extraordinary plants for ordinary people' and specialises in supplying collections for rock gardens, ponds and woodlands. She also runs the design and consultancy part of her business to make things even easier for clients who want good advice as well as good plants. (Tel: 0131 454 0660 www.kevockgardens.co.uk). Elizabeth and Alasdair MacGregor established Ellenbank Nurseries in Kircudbright over 20 years ago. Elizabeth specialises in violas, anemones and eryngiums, but is highly praised for her wide, colourful and tempting range of choice perennials. (Tel: 01557 330 620 www.elizabethmacgregor.co.uk)

Finally, for the gardener who has everything why not send a catalogue from Fordmouth Croft Ornamental Grass Nursery in Aberdeenshire. Ornamental grasses have become very popular and are considered a stylish addition to any border. (Tel: 01467 670 519 www.fmcornamentalgrasses.co.uk).

The 'Flowers of Scotland' are all here so perhaps we should 'think again' for Christmas and be sure that the recipient will find inspiration and hope on even the gloomiest January day. I'm sure they'll thank you for such a brilliant idea and choosing what they want for their own patch will make the gift easy for you and fun for them!

Julie Edmonstone

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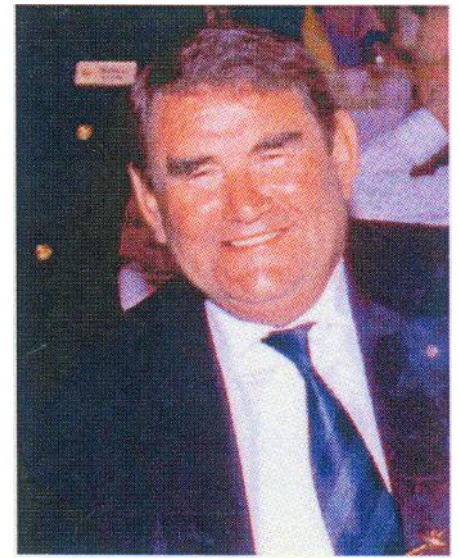
Myra Burns 1929 – 2009



Myra Burns came to the village from Bearsden nine years ago, latterly living above the butcher's shop. She was an active member of the Thursday Club, enjoying the company and playing scrabble. Sadly she died suddenly on her 80th birthday.

JW

Robin Veitch MBE 1943 – 2009



Robin Veitch collapsed suddenly and died on 26 October. His loss to the village, whose organisations he served so well, will be immeasurable

Brought up on Cochno Farm, Hardgate, he was educated at Glasgow Academy where he developed talents in debating and rugby. He fulfilled his passion for rugby as a player, referee and supporter and was one of the founder members of Clydebank RFC which he saw go from strength to strength.

He was, for most of his career, associated with the Cumbernauld firm of Traditional Weatherwear, producers of mackintosh raincoats. He travelled the world promoting the clothing industry and was awarded the MBE for his services to the export trade and served for a number of years on the Executive of the Scottish Council of Development & Industry.

He was very active in Rotary, being an ex-president successively of both Cumbernauld and Strathendrick Rotary Clubs and was Youth Opportunities Chairman of District 1230.

Once resident in Killearn, he was quickly drawn into the life of the village. As well as his involvement with Rotary, he was active in Killearn Kirk, becoming an Elder in 2003. He was Chairman of Colourful Killearn and in 2007 took over the Chair of the Old Folks Committee.

A big character in every sense, Robin lived his life to the full, whilst in recent times regarding every new day as a bonus. His exuberant personality, his energies and enthusiasm given so willingly to serving his colleagues and fellow villagers will be greatly missed.

His marriage to Hazel was one of the happiest, lasting thirty six years, and he was a devoted uncle and great uncle to his many nephews and nieces and their families.


Retirement gave him the chance to indulge his love of travel with Hazel, as did his pleasure in his garden and his cultivation of unusual plants. The Open Gardens Day in the summer allowed many of us to share his hospitality and enjoy the results of his work. Whilst we mourn his sudden passing and give our sympathies to Hazel, it is fitting that his life should have closed on a sunny autumn day in his garden with his wife at his side. *BP*

The *Courier* was sad to learn of the sudden death of Elizabeth Alexander of Gartness Road. The news came too late to include in this edition; we hope to carry an obituary in March.

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Doreen McMillan who established the Centre, recently announced further developments in the range of treatments available.

"We originally set up the Centre to provide therapeutic treatments relating to Nutritional Guidance, Reflexology and Counselling, which I practice; in conjunction with Hypnotherapy and Motivational Coaching, as directed by Pam Watson, who is the Centre's Practice Manager. All these treatments are proving highly popular.

In response to client requests, we have recently introduced additional treatments at the Centre and now provide Holistic as well as Hands-On Therapy. The extended range of therapies includes the Bowen Treatment undertaken by Liz Cochrane and Reiki and Massage as administered by Kay Myles.



These, we believe, will be welcomed by clients who are seeking more from our fully qualified practitioners and these additions are the first of many developments we have planned for the Centre in the coming months. Over time we will offer an even wider spectrum of treatments for Body & Mind Wellbeing".

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Doreen McMillan

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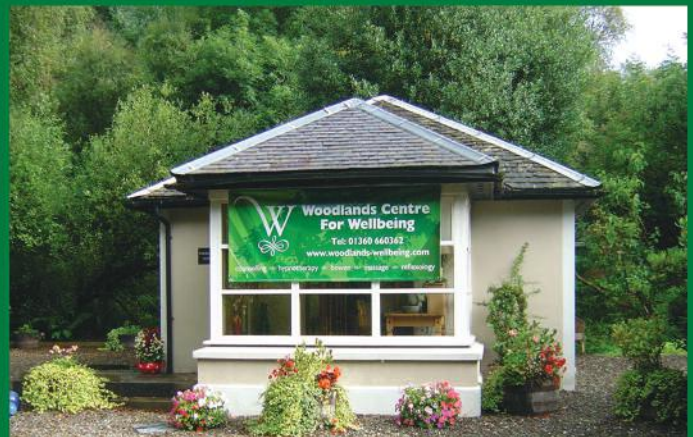
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A Lesson in Debt Management

In the month of August on the shores of the Black Sea, it is raining and the little town was looking totally deserted. Times were tough and everybody lived on credit. Suddenly a rich tourist calls at the hotel, he lays a 100 euro note on the counter and asks for a room.

The hotel proprietor takes the 100 euro note to pay the butcher, the butcher takes the 100 euro to the piggery to pay his debt of pork, the piggery takes the 100 euro to the feed merchant to pay for feed, the feed merchant takes the 100 euro to the hotel proprietor to pay his drink bill. The tourist returns to the hotel reception reclaims his 100 euro and leaves as he had decided not to stay... now the town has no debt!

Jim Fallas

Stirling and District Association for Mental Health

The Rural Access service supports people experiencing mental ill health to live a fulfilling life in their own community to enable them to achieve their goals. To access this Service you must be aged between 18 and 65 years and live within the rural areas of Stirling.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from this Service please contact:

SDAMH on 01786 451203.

Improved Housing Repairs Service

Stirling Council has introduced a new repairs Freephone number (0800 027 5888) which will allow them to monitor calls more effectively and provide a more consistent service to tenants in council properties. The number will also be available outwith office hours for emergency repair calls. Tenants will still be able to report repairs in person to Local Offices, by email, text message or by letter.

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Times Past – A Holiday Adventure

In a week of glorious weather in June 1951, a pal and I toured western Scotland. We set off from Greenock, travelling by modes of transport such as river ferry, loch steamer, steam train, island ferry, and by hitching lifts which on one occasion was by a road oil delivery tanker in its drum cage from which I saw Gruinard Bay for the first time – not to mention a good deal of walking. We stayed in youth hostels and our trip culminated at Ullapool where we hoped to go out on a herring drifter and this we did on board the *MFV Golden Lily*, thanks to its skipper James Reid. At that time, the herring fleet in Ullapool comprised over 20 vessels.

We got on board around 2pm and proceeded down Loch Broom, passing through the Summer Isles, then in a northerly direction towards Cape Wrath, with a clear view of the Sutherland Hills. We hove to in the late evening to shoot the two miles of



drift net which would sit vertical in the sea with the upper edge two fathoms below the surface, catching the herring by the gills. Hauling the net began after about five hours and all was completed and the catch boxed in a further three hours. We

arrived back in Ullapool before 10am, ensuring the same price as the first arrival, namely £5 a box; and for 27 boxes, one of the best catches of the night.

This was an incredible experience and one I will never forget; the magic of watching gannets diving just below the surface to gobble up fish, the mist on a flat-calm milky green sea and a breakfast of freshly caught deep fried herring. Sadly, this wonderful experience will remain as only a memory; the herring boats have all gone.

Eddie Bell



The *Courier* Wins Awards

At the 2009 Community Newspaper of the Year Awards Ceremony, held in the Callander Kirk Hall on Saturday, 19 September, the *Courier* was yet again, up there amongst the best. We were nominated in every category and won

the Award for the *Best Photograph/Illustration* (this was our front page of Issue 13, Spring 2009) and we won the Award for the *Strangest Destination* (this referred to the letter we printed from Ken Lyon, Lakes Entrance, Australia, in our last edition).

The *Courier* nominated Killearn Community Council which won the award. Pictured is Brenda Pell, Chair of the Council, receiving the Award Certificate from the Editor of the *Courier*, Ian Dickie.

TID

This year, Stirling Council, who hold the Awards Ceremony and who are very supportive of community newspapers, asked each newspaper to look at the various local volunteer groups within their area and nominate the one they thought had made the most outstanding contribution to the community in 2009.



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Ten things you didn't know about Killearn's Wee Green Market

1. We're local. The market was created and is run by locals for locals. Once a month we bring fresh food produce to your doorstep. The emphasis is on quality – just ask our regular customers.

2. We support charity organisations and local groups. We do not charge fundraisers for their stalls. We presently support Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre, Fair Trade, Ballikinrain School, and Oxfam.

3. Home baking is a firm favourite at any event and Joanna Donaldson and the PTA run a wonderful tearoom during the market. It's a great place to catch up with friends while enjoying hand-made muffins, cookies, brownies... and they serve real coffee!

4. People think we're just a craft market but we also sell a wide range of food products. Our food producers include Achray Farm Baking (Brig O'Turk) – hand-made speciality breads; Catherine's Country Kitchen (Falkirk) – eclectic range of preserves and chutneys and our newest stall holder Olive It Med (Glasgow) sells fresh olives and tapas. We're always on the look out for more stalls for our expanding food section.

5. We have award-winning stallholders. In 2008 four of our stallholders were part of Country Living Christmas Fair at the SECC and the very talented Lynne Seaton from My Baboo (Balfron) won best decorated stall.

6. It's not very often you can have a face-to-face exchange with producers. Each stallholder can give you expert advice. Yasmin MacDonagh from Scotia Spices (Balfron) can give you top cookery tips.

7. The craft stallholders design and hand-make all their own crafts and they are only too happy to accept commissions. Michael Kay (Callander) is a talented silversmith and exhibits his jewellery in local galleries. You will not find our artisan gifts on the High Street, the emphasis is on individuality.

8. The market is not just about shopping, it's a social experience. We're very grateful for the support of our regular customers, but in order for us to continue we need new customers. Please support your local producers.

9. We started as a one-day event in December 2007 and it was such a success that the public and stallholders wanted more. Now you can find us in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month between 10am and 1pm. Entry is free.

10. We love the idea of growing and eating locally. Our dream is to see Killearn have a community garden, where the school, nurseries, Abbeyfield and local groups can grow vegetables together in raised beds. A place to share experiences and knowledge, with any surplus being sold at the market from a co-operative stall.



If you are interested and want to know more about the market, contact Jaqui McAlpine on 551659, email re-act@live.co.uk or visit the website at www.killearnsmarket.com

PanikGalleryKillearn
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ceramics, from the Adam Pottery, featuring five artists' decorative homeware and Tom Butcher's functional stoneware, all at Panik Gallery; gift vouchers available

h is for ...

Highland Stoneware, on sale within the Wishingwell Coffee shop



r is for ...

resting while Scott MacColl Landscaping tackles that unkept bit of the garden – an ideal gift for the not-so-keen gardener

i is for ...

the **icing** on Country Kitchen's wonderful traditional Christmas Cakes – lots of festive foodie goodies; last orders for Christmas, Tuesday 8 December; contact Jane Wilson on 550122 or pop into the shop at Herons Court



s is for ...

steak pies from MacDonald Butchers – an award-winning 'must' for New Year's Day

t is for ...



turkeys and locally produced meats from Edenmill Farm Shop

m is for ...

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a is for ...

alluring or simply practical lingerie from Peaches, Westerton Workshop; contact 551302

s is for ...

Strathcarron Wishes – the Hospice's gift catalogue that helps towards their weekly fundraising needs of £50,000; a gift of £15 would buy toilet rolls for the Hospice for a week! Visit www.strathcarronhospice.org and click on 'shops' – the gift catalogue is "not just for Christmas"



Christmas

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currency for that winter holiday or **cash** dispensing from Janet at the Post Office

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We talk about 'food miles'... well, reduce your 'present miles' by taking advantage of what's on offer in and around our village. There's little need to do battle with city-centre crowds when you can combine mail order and internet shopping with the treasure trove which is our local traders.

It's not just presents, there's everything you need on your doorstep to complete the traditional Christmas celebrations. Here's our acrostic guide to some of what is out there.

scent, not frankincense, but 'Inverse', Kylie Minogue's new fragrance for men available at Killearn Pharmacy



his or her own personalised bottle of Glengoyne Malt – commission your own labelled bottle of whisky, contact the Distillery for details visit: www.glengoyne.com



trees, it just wouldn't be Christmas without them – Eden Christmas Trees, Stockiemuir Road; Drymen Stone, Croftamie; S & J Duff, Wester Auchentroig, Buchlyvie; Forestry Commission, David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle and the McArthurs, Branshogle Sawmill, Fintry Road

sprays of festive foliage and flowers from Khloris Flowers at Oakwood Garden Centre; contact Shona on 551016

A Killearn Evacuee, 1940 – her story

We as a family, Mum, Dad, my brother Jim and myself lived in Glasgow in a flat. My parents decided we would be



Clydebank After the Blitz 1941

safer living in the country so in 1940 we moved to Sunnyside, Wood Place, Blanefield and were very happy until the night of 13 March 1941 – the second night of the Clydebank Blitz.

Dad was a member of the Home Guard and on duty. My mother had just put my brother and me to bed. There is thunder in the air, she said and went to take down a mirror which hung above the fireplace. To take it down she had to

stand on a stool and had just stepped off the stool when the front window came flying through the room with the blast of a bomb. The ceiling plaster started falling all around us (even to this day I can still smell the broken plaster). Dad was blown off his feet on the hill but he managed to come home and make his way to us through rubble in the house and got us out into the garden. Once in the garden we could see German planes and ours flying through the searchlight beams which illuminated the sky. We

were eventually taken to Lennox Castle Hospital. My mother needed stitches in a bad cut in her chin. We were in shock but all right. What we didn't know was that another bomb, which had failed to explode, was behind what had been our home. Two people died that night in Wood Place.

Eventually we were billeted in Duntreath Castle along with two other families from Sunnyside, Wood

Place, Blanefield. Our furniture was stored in the Co-operative Hall in Glasgow Road behind what is now the Indian takeaway and hairdresser at the top of Station Road. My father didn't want to go back to Blanefield and we eventually got a house in Killearn down Gartness Road and then Graham Road.

We enjoyed our stay in Killearn. We became part of the village and enjoyed our childhood. A neighbour of ours had a boyfriend in the RAF and when a plane came over and it was our neighbour's boyfriend he would waggle his wings and we would wave. Unfortunately he was killed during the war.

In 1954 I married Archie Shaw, a Balfour lad and we had two children, Millar and Linda.

Elizabeth Shaw, nee McAdam

PS Betty's father, James B McAdam gave shows of pictures for the wounded service men in Killearn Hospital on a Thursday night each week.

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All Killearn Archives

In the next few months, the All Killearn Archives group are planning to focus on the Second World War in and around Killearn. We will liaise with Primary 7 at Killearn Primary, who study the War as their topic between Christmas and Easter. We will be holding an exhibition of the children's work and the memorabilia which we have collected.

If anyone has any memories which they would like to contribute, or indeed if they would be willing to come and speak to the children about their own or their family's experience, please contact Helen Loudon on 770225.

Killearn Evacuees 1914

I answered the phone... Carol Murphy, Balfron Library: could I please help a Belgian couple who were looking for their great grandmother? Yes, I said in reply.

Bob and Lut Craen-D'Hont duly called and we went to the old graveyard in Crosshead Road. The gravestone we were looking for was a marble shield roughly 18 inches high. The name, 'Miran (De Veires) March' a Belgian from the 1914-1918 war who was sent to Killearn. She got married to a 'March' and they lived in Rose Cottage, Main Street, Killearn. She died supposedly in childbirth and her death was registered next door at 26 Main Street, the then Registrar on 14 August 1915. Somewhere, there was a daughter from whom Robert is a direct descendent. She had three brothers who survived four and a half years in the army on the Western Front. The family came from a small town between Antwerp and Walcheren Island.

By strange coincidence, Robert, his parents and family spent the 1939-45 war years in Northern Spain as refugees (the family were of Romany Gypsy stock). How lucky we in Britain are not to have lived on the European mainland in both wars.

We had a very pleasant afternoon, exchanged details, they bought a *Parish of Killearn* book. I gave them the address of Balfron District office and Stirling Archives. Sadly, although we found the site of the lair there was no grave stone which saddened them. However photographs were taken of the site for them to keep for all time.

Jim Fallas

War Memorial

The War Memorial has recently had a 'wash and brush up' literally and figuratively and the stones of the monument and its surrounding plinth have regained some of their former attractive appearance. The lime mortar has been replaced and the railings repaired and painted.

The money for the refurbishment was raised by Killearn Community Council with grants from the Community Pride Fund, the Paul Trust and the War Memorials Trust.



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Top After School Programme

The Top Play and Top Sport programmes are designed for use with primary aged children and are developed in association with sportscotland.

Tops clubs are lead mainly by volunteers and supported by the Active Schools Coordinator, in conjunction with local primary schools (Drymen, Fintry, Killearn, Kippen, Strathblane, Buchanan, Buchlyvie, Balfron).

The clubs teach children new skills while boosting their confidence and social interaction. Top Play is aimed P1 - 3 and teaches the basic skills of throwing, catching, jumping, kicking and rolling. Top Sport is for P4 - 7 and introduces a range of sports and the basic skills involved. Sports include athletics, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby, squash, table tennis, tennis, volleyball. Bags of equipment are provided and resource cards provide activities for all these sports.

In order to sustain after-school Tops clubs in all schools we need more enthusiastic volunteers. You do not need to be sporty, just enthusiastic. Full training and support is given and annual social events are organised as a way of thanking all our volunteers for their commitment. If you have an hour a week to spare during term time and are interested in getting children fit, active and healthy, then please get in touch with Lyndsay Morrison, Active Schools Coordinator (Balfron) on:

01786 432323, or email
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News from Killearn Community Council

By the time this issue of the *Courier* is in circulation the Community Council of 2006-9 will have been disbanded, elections will have taken place and a new Community Council will be waiting to be inducted. And so the business of local government goes on. KCC is the link between you, the residents of Killearn and Stirling Council. Whatever we achieve seems to happen only in small steps and over a period of time; nevertheless, we try to listen to suggestions and complaints and our work is directed towards addressing matters of concern.

Traffic Management

Alterations at SPAR have brought safer parking practices, requiring us to leave our vehicles at the rear of the building; and the short walk from the car park to the shop may be good for our health as well as our safety. Things are still not perfect here and restrictions on parking alongside the fence would help to ensure sufficient room is left for vehicles to enter and leave the car park. The 'bulge' in the pavement at the entry is a questionable safety measure but there is no doubt that the absence of kerb-side parking does allow drivers emerging from the rear of the building a good view of the Main Street. We await further work at the 'Bank Corner' to emphasise the danger of the bend. Residents are still concerned at the speed at which traffic enters and leaves the village on the Balfour Road and further measures could be taken here. Bollards in Beech Drive have been replaced with a sturdier fixing to resist vandalism

Football Club

KCC supports the Football Club's efforts to install new changing facilities close to the pitch.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing has been recognised as needed in the village. Stirling Council has recently announced their intention to bid for funding to build on the 'turnip field'. This is an area of the park which has been owned by Stirling Council and held as potential housing stock for several decades. The fact that it has been used and maintained as recreation ground for over 30 years will lead to some hard decision-making when a consultation exercise is announced.

Website

The Community Council is required by its constitution to publish the minutes of each meeting within 14 days, which is why they appear on the notice board outside Spar each month. However, if you are connected to the internet, you can read the minutes in comfort, and look at any of the minutes of the past year, something you cannot do on the notice board. You can find the dates of meetings, look at local planning applications, and more, so why not visit www.killearncc.org.uk regularly. *Brenda Pell*

Update on Village Hall

Following last year's consultation process with users and groups and subsequent appointment of the architect, as previously reported in the *Courier*, we are now close to agreeing an acceptable plan and costs.

During the first six months of 2009 a full Business Plan was prepared in consultation with representatives of Stirling Council and in September this Plan was formally presented to the Strategic Asset Management Group of the Council – landlords of the Village Hall.

In October, Stirling Council responded to this presentation and our application in principle to renovate the village hall with a list of points requiring further clarification. These included the management of the hall and youth club, usage of specific additional areas of space, responsibility for maintenance of the new build, confirmation of community support for the project as now developed, security, plans for the use of new technology to create a user-friendly facility and to reduce running costs and, most importantly, the likely level of funding support from major funders.

Our intentions now are to reach agreement as soon as possible within KCFC on the draft plans and project costs and present these to the Village Hall Management Committee, Killearn Community Council, Killearn Trust, Village Hall users and finally to the Killearn community. It is hoped that it will be possible to do this with the help of a model of the renovated building to ensure a full understanding of the proposed alterations and additions. We are targeting late January 2010 for this community presentation. We will also be approaching potential sources of major funding to establish the likelihood of support and any funding conditions which may apply.

Brian Simmers

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A New Youth Initiative

It has habitually been the case that local youths from Killearn and other outlying villages would congregate in Killearn on Friday evenings. While the youngsters are simply being sociable and mixing with their own peer group, the sheer numbers congregating occasionally generated calls to Balfon Police Office from concerned residents in the village.

On speaking with these youths, local police officers invariably found them to be polite, articulate and well behaved. It was apparent however that the kids were bored, with little or no facilities for them to attend during the evenings.

With this in mind, following discussions between Stirling Council Youth Services and PCs David McNally and Andrew Faulds, it was decided that during July and August a one-off BBQ would be held for the local kids. Funding was kindly provided by the Balfon Community Children's Partnership (BCCP) which paid for burgers and juice along with a Mobile Youth Space operated by the Youth Services Department.

On a sunny evening on 24 July, around 50 local kids gathering around the Killearn multicourt where two hours of free activities and food were laid on. As the evening wore on, even some of the parents participated. The event was a resounding success. Furthermore, several of the youths took the opportunity of appealing directly to the Youth Services staff for similar events to be staged in the future. Two weeks later, the event was repeated in Balfon with similar success.

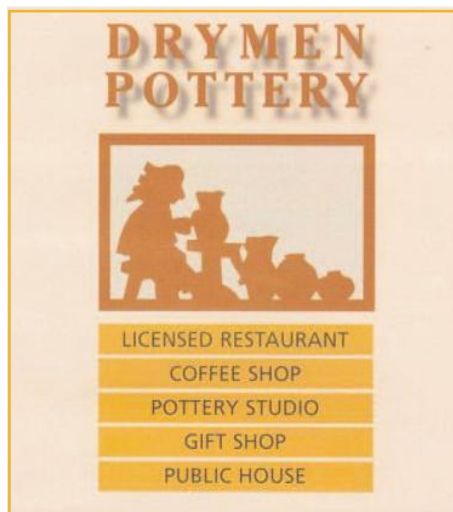
The events were received with such enthusiasm by the local kids that the

BCCP agreed to provide additional funding for future events during the winter. This, along with a number of generous private donations from Killearn residents has made it possible for a number of events to be staged in the Village Hall during the winter months.

At the time of writing plans are being finalised to stage fully supervised activities and events each Friday evening from the beginning of November to the end of February 2010. These evenings will be shared between Killearn, Balfon and Strathblane with youths from each village welcome to attend events staged in other villages.

Once our plans are finalised, announcements will be made at Balfon High School and notices placed on the village notice board giving full details of the time and dates of the events. Parents, if you're interested, feel free to come along and discreetly watch from the sidelines – we wouldn't want your kids to be embarrassed!

PC D McNally, Community Officer




Rural Tales



Jess Smith as a schoolgirl. Photograph[®] taken from her autobiography *Jessie's Journey* published by Birlinn.

At our October meeting, *the Rural Lennox Group* were given a fascinating talk by Jess Smith who comes from a family of travellers. She and her seven sisters travelled the length and breadth of Scotland with their parents in an old Bedford bus, until she settled to a more permanent way of life, after meeting her husband-to-be aged 17. The family earned their living doing things like hay stacking, berry picking, beach combing and fortune telling. Jess's aim in life now is to make sure that the old travelling culture is not forgotten. She has written several books and is in constant demand to give talks and sing songs reflecting the old way of life. The Rural members heard about the discrimination travelling folk suffered, such as separate schooling, constantly being moved on by the police, etc, but also the great camaraderie that was shared especially with the Irish travellers who had real kinship with their Scots 'cousins'. Jess gave a first-hand insight into the travelling life – a life all but gone but which is being kept alive through her books and talks.

Sara Hudson



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OPEN 1ST DECEMBER



1st Killearn Boys Brigade



The Brigade held their annual summer camp (Company and Senior sections) at Faskally near Pitlochry in August. This was the last official duty for their Captain, Alistair Smith, who has now retired from regular duty with the Boys Brigade after 27 years service. Alistair wanted an exciting and memorable last camp which was more than achieved, even before we arrived at Faskally, when the wheel from the BB trailer parted company and overtook the car that was pulling the trailer! All was not lost however thanks to Alec Hutchinson who came to our rescue



with an another trailer on which to carry our trailer. The boys took part in and won five medals in the Scottish Crannog Centre Iron Age Olympics, which included events such as fish throwing, log boat racing and sheaf tossing.

The new session has also seen the company lose another officer, as Neil Smith is studying at the University of Lyon in France for a year. This leaves the Company with one registered member of staff, Neil Evans (Acting Captain Tel: 01360 550715) and a small band of parent helpers to keep the company running. This session we have a varied programme planned for the Anchor and Junior sections which includes pizza making, treasure hunts, 'smells', crafts, bike maintenance, a panto and of course lots of games.

The Company and Senior sections have been planning their programme which includes, writing a rap, Tai Kwon Do, a trip to laser quest, raft building, 'construction challenge'

as well as community activities and games. Boys may join the company at any time during the year.

We meet in the Church Hall on a Thursday: Anchor Boys (P1-P3) and Junior Section (P4-P6) at 6.45pm to 7.45pm; followed by Company Section (P7-S2) and Senior Section (S3-S6) at 7.45pm to 9.30pm. We would like to encourage anyone over 18 to come along, join the staff and help keep 1st Killearn BB running for the boys in the village.

Neil Evans

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Heavenly Hot Ham



Ham or gammon has always been traditional Christmas fare and even more so now that you can buy it, uncooked and in more manageable sizes, from the supermarket. The one covered in mustard and breadcrumbs from M&S is particularly delicious. Produce it hot for its first appearance and cold thereafter – if there's any left. Serve it with this easy sauce – it really does make all the difference and children love the sweetness.

Pour a good slosh of red wine into a saucepan and remove the alcohol by boiling it briefly. Add a jar of Cumberland sauce or redcurrant jelly and double the amount of chicken stock, a pinch of salt, some orange rind and a good dollop of mustard. Simmer for a few minutes. *Julie Edmonstone*

Chocolate & Cranberry Cookies

125g/4oz unsalted butter
125/4oz unrefined light muscavado sugar
2 medium eggs, lightly beaten
2tsp vanilla extract
225g/8oz wholemeal self-raising flour
25g/1oz cocoa
75g/3oz dried cranberries
12 pecan halves
100g bar white chocolate, roughly chopped
100g bar milk chocolate, roughly chopped
Heat oven to 180C (160 Fan)/Gas mark 4

Put butter and sugar in a bowl and beat until soft and fluffy. Gradually beat in eggs and vanilla extract.

Sift in flour and cocoa and add cranberries and chopped chocolate. Mix dough together with your hands. Knead lightly, then wrap in cling film and chill for at least 30 minutes.

Cover two baking sheets with baking parchment. Roll mixture into 12 balls and arrange, well spaced, on the paper. Flatten each one with the heel of your hand and top with a pecan half.

Bake for 15 minutes until just firm. Leave on tray for five minutes to firm slightly and serve while warm. Alternatively, cool on a cooling rack and store in an airtight container.

Flick Duff

Tootie-Fruitti Rounds

200g bar of white chocolate (Belgian chocolate is ideal)
Half pack of butter (about 125g)
6 Rich Tea biscuits or 12 Rich Tea fingers
4 green glace cherries (or angelica)
2oz dried cranberries or blueberries
2tbsp raisins

Break chocolate into a microwaveable bowl. Using round bladed knife, but butter into rough chunks and add to bowl with chocolate. Microwave on medium for three minutes. (Alternatively you can put chocolate and butter into a pyrex bowl and melt over a pan of gently simmering water, making sure that the water doesn't touch the bottom of the bowl). When mixture has melted, stir gently till smooth, taking care not to over mix.

Leave aside to cool, stirring once or twice as it cools.

Put biscuits in a bowl and scrunch with your hands. Tip pieces into a large freezer bag and seal top. Crunch biscuits into little crumbs by bashing bag with rolling pin. Don't completely crush them as they should have some crunch left.

Rinse cherries or angelica in a sieve under warm water tap and pat dry with kitchen paper. Cut them into pieces the same size as the cranberries or blueberries and raisins. Stir fruit and biscuits into chocolate mixture then chill in bowl until mixture is almost solid.

Tear off long sheet of cling film and spread out on work surface. Scoop out half of chilled mixture, shape into a long roll on top of the cling film, then wrap it up and roll into a sausage shape the diameter of a £2 coin. Repeat with remaining half of mixture. Chill overnight to firm up.

Unwrap each roll and carefully cut into 16 rounds (you might find a serrated knife easier for this).

To give as presents, arrange the rounds on paper plates, covered in cling film, or in pretty boxes.

Flick Duff

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Think Pink Scotland's Fundraising Recipes

Think Pink Scotland, established locally in 2006 with the aim of raising funds and awareness of breast cancer in Scotland, has launched *Fantastic Recipes for a Fantastic Cause*. Funds from sales of the book will go towards a laboratory at the new Translational Research Centre in Garscube Estate, Glasgow, as part of the £10 million Beatson Pebble Appeal campaign.

Designed as a 'must have' Christmas gift the book is packed with contributions from celebrities including Gordon Ramsay, Lloyd Grossman, Rosemary Conley, Judy Murray, Alex Salmond, Nicola Sturgeon, Lorraine Kelly, Heather Suttie, John Quigley, Kaye Adams, Amanda Hamilton, Carol Smillie, Fred MacAulay, Shereen Nanjiani, Ford & Lesley Kiernan and Elaine C Smith.

Get a copy of *Fantastic Recipes for a Fantastic Cause* from Killearn Pharmacy or The Old Mill Gift Shop for just £12.50. It can be purchased for £15.00 at Borders, Buchanan Street, Glasgow. It is also available online at www.thinkpinkscotland.org or www.universityofglasgowshops.com



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Christmas Floral Display



Use a plastic based oasis ring and soak it for about 1 hour. Meanwhile attach a wire 'stem' to Christmas baubles, cones, dried oranges etc by twisting florist's or garden wire around the base and leaving a 2-inch stem.



Cut foliage from the garden, choosing different shapes and shades of greenery. Place the hurricane vase in the middle of the ring and place greenery into oasis. Then insert the decorations around the ring.



Lastly add a few fresh flowers and place candle within the vase. Keep oasis moist with a water spray and the arrangement should last over the festive period. Replace fresh flowers if necessary.

Khloris Flowers are holding classes and demonstration days in early December at Oakwood Garden Centre. Please contact Shona or Wendy on 01360 551016 to make your booking.

A Bright Light In The Dark

One of the items weighing down my normal shoulder-wrenching lady's bag is a small but surprisingly effective slimline torch. It is ideal for lighting up the steps at the session house door, and pointing the way down the lane from the Black Bull to Old Endrick Road. Actually, a proper lamp post at the park gate corner would be even better, but in the meantime, the torch does very well. It is a bright spot of light in the dark.

The pre-Christian pagans would have understood that entirely. Like us, they had good reasons for lighting up the dark, if only to avoid coming to grief on uneven ground. But they also understood the need for something to brighten up the dead of winter – something festive to look forward to, and to reflect upon with happiness after it was over. A young Russian friend once asked me if I realised that Christmas was based on what was originally a heathen festival, as though we in the west were somehow being duped. I surprised him by answering that of course we knew, that the early church fathers had known a good thing

when they saw it, and in the absence of a definitive date for Christ's birth had plumped for a mid-winter celebration, just as the pagans had done. Not only did this perform the same function of brightening up the dark, but also it included the pagans in the party. The church fathers were not daft.

Various symbols of the season seem to have been common to many historic tribes and civilisations. Decorative winter greenery, the giving of gifts, and a great deal of eating and drinking occurred all over the place. So did fires and lights – symbols of warmth and life. And it's gone on ever since. When Prince Albert popularised the Christmas tree, it was lit with candles, while Dickensian log fires roared away in the hearth. The statistics for domestic conflagrations must have been hair-raising.

With the advent of electricity, we are not quite so prone to hazard, even if Health and Safety were not on hand with the hydrant of regulation and restriction. So keen are we on Christmas lights that some people have their trees up by the end of November,

which is a tad on the early side. Prince Albert didn't put his up till Christmas Eve. Somewhere in-between is perhaps more desirable nowadays. But whenever they are switched on, lights are always going to spread feelings of warmth and good cheer. Who has not responded to the first Advent arch of the season in a porch window? The jury may still be out on some of the wilder garden extravaganzas, but they're certainly cheerful, if the national grid can stand it.

All around the village, we regularly enjoy Christmas lights, and this year should hopefully be no different. At the time of writing, Christmas is still some way off, and there might well be new and exciting displays for us to enjoy, as well as the old faithfuls. Look out for the seductive brightness of the gift shops, the riot of colour in Graham Road, the line of twinkling light along the roofline of the Old Mill. Across the road, the Church will have one tree outside, and another one in the chancel, lit and decorated and spreading warmth and light to all the villagers. Have a bright and happy Christmas, everyone.

Joyce Begg



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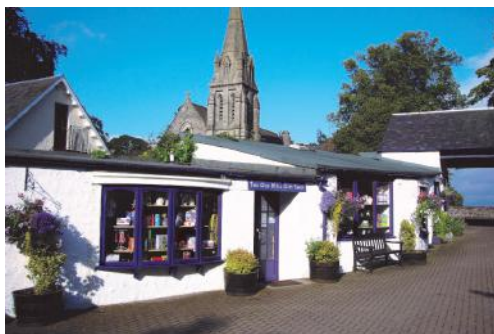
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Killearn Hoolie

12 June 2010

The planning for next year's event is well underway. The Killearn Hoolie will involve as many local people as possible in a celebration of community spirit and life in our village.

A full programme of events is being lined up for the day on The Glebe on Saturday 12 June; including a whole range of family entertainment, games, stalls and refreshments. The Hoolie will climax with a fantastic evening of entertainment for the grown-ups to be held in the marquee on the Glebe.

However leading up to the day itself various Killearn Groups are being encouraged to stage their own events in association with the Hoolie: there will be a Fun Run on Sunday 6 June, concerts, displays and a family Treasure Hunt.

Full details will be available early in the New Year but, for the time being, please put SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2010 on your calendar.

Further information available from Jennifer Brown on 550681

Well Remembered!



In our last edition we carried a picture from the archives of the Tug of War at a past Killearn event. Thanks to Nancy Kidd, Keith Kemsley and others for their suggestions and contentions; the most complete picture comes from Jim Macdonald who writes:

The names are as follows from left to right - Alec Russell, Alastair Smith, Kenny Hendry, Duncan McNauton, James Macdonald, Scott Mitchell, Bill Adams and Donald Beaton.

The tug-of-war took place at Killearn Primary School (1995).

Tennis Club Report

The 'tennis year' started in April with a particularly successful opening day, helped by some excellent weather. We got the message out about the junior and adult coaching and had many enquires about new memberships. We followed this with a tennis coffee morning when more prospective members had another opportunity to visit the club and we'll certainly look to repeat this event next year. The weather wasn't so kind on the day of the Barbecue but in between the showers we each had a burger... better luck next year?

Our senior teams have had mixed success. The Gent's team comfortably retained their position in Division 1, winning four out of their 10 games. The Ladies unfortunately were relegated from Division 2 to Division 3. The six-set format currently required in Divisions 1 and 2 clearly does not sit well with many of our lady members and we have had trouble keeping everyone involved. Well done to Ian and Solly Georgeson, the respective team captains, for keeping things ticking over. Next year our ladies will be back to playing the four-set format and we're hoping for a revival in interest.

Our junior coaching programme has been very popular and will continue over the autumn and winter in the Village Hall. Some places are still available (contact Janey Mackay 550464). The Wednesday night outdoor senior coaching sessions will continue and also remain popular. To attend coaching you must be a club member. Coaching forms are available in the clubhouse and fees are payable to Patsy Hutchison.

We have started a mini league ladder. Details are available in the clubhouse. It would be good to see this take off and get some 'competitive' singles played over the autumn and winter.

As a final word we would ask all club members to think ahead to next year's committee requirements as we will be needing them to fill the positions of club Secretary and Treasurer and Vice-President.

John Forshaw

President, Killearn Tennis Club

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WEDNESDAY □ Balfroon (am), Killearn (pm)

Killlearn Football Club – Season 2009 Report



Season 2009, although not a bad year, it could have been a lot better. Overall the team won three trophies and were runners-up in another two. They played a total of 24 games, winning 15, drawing five and losing two. Two games were conceded by opponents unable to raise a team. A total of 65 goals were scored.

In the Leslie League, Killlearn finished runners-up behind Balforn Rovers and by scoring 55 league goals, the club were also runners-up for the Salmon Leap Shield. Hopes were high for a Cameron Cup success after a bye in the first round and a brilliant 5-1 win against Blanefield in round two. However, with our two main strikers missing the team lost to Drymen in the semi-final after a penalty shoot-out.

In the Telfer Cup, Killlearn faced Balforn in the final, on the last day of the season. After a keenly contested match, Taylor Stobo secured the cup for Killlearn with a wonder strike from 25 yards – a goal fit to win any cup final. Following the match, two further trophies were presented to the club. The Garvie Cup for the best disciplined team of the season (last won by the club 23 years ago) and the Stirling Observer League Player of the Year Shield which was presented to Alan More who scored 29 goals during the season, including three hat-tricks in the matches against Blanefield Thistle.

The Annual Golf outing, played at Balforn and attended by 35 members, was won by Stuart Ashworth.

The efforts to install new changing facilities at the park are progressing



slowly. It is hoped that by next season when the club will celebrate its centenary, something definite will have started.

In conclusion, the club would like to thank all who have given their support in many different ways during the past season.

Donald Beaton





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Curling – First Stones

The new curling season for Strathendrick Curling Club started in September for both the main club and the Ladies Section. There was a very special start to this season, as we also have a new curling rink. The old Stirling rink has closed and there is a brand new ice rink at The Peak at Forthbank. The general verdict is that the ice is much better, but the catering needs to become more streamlined.

The main club started their season with the traditional President v Vice-President bonspiel. Fortunately, the President won the match! We have sufficient members to play an eight-team league on Tuesdays both before and after Christmas but we could always do with more reserves.

The Ladies Section decided to play their Opening Bonspiel at The Peak this year instead of the usual visit to another rink. Betty Meikle won this for the third year running! The Ladies are playing two six-team leagues on Thursday mornings and again would welcome more reserves.

In the off-season we had two enjoyable social events. The Bowies held a barbecue at their home, Little Carbeth, and we had our annual Texas scramble and quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. We were fortunate with the weather on both occasions!

If you are interested in trying curling, or taking it up again, please contact the President Mike Jackson or the Secretary Stan Moore or use the contact email on the website at www.strathendrickcurling.co.uk

Rugby Roundup

The season is in full swing at Strathendrick Rugby Club. The 1st XV at Fintry – with ambitions for promotion to the National Leagues – have made a good start to their campaign and are poised near the top of the table. The competition is likely to go down to the wire: to follow progress and check up-to-date results visit www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/

The 2nd XV have a really tough fixture list against teams from much larger clubs but they are doing well, with a mixture of younger and ‘more mature’ players!

The Club is delighted to have Drew MacDonald working as a full-time SVQ trainee in collaboration with Balfron High School and Active Stirling. Drew is coaching the Midis, and will assist with the Minis programme, help with Primary School taster sessions and promote the sport and the Club throughout the area.

Strathendrick Midis are running composite teams for S1/2s and S3/4s. The Minis have a full schedule of coaching, games, tournaments and visits to the internationals at Murrayfield.

For further information contact Nick Hawkins on 550576 or Iain Somerville on 550842





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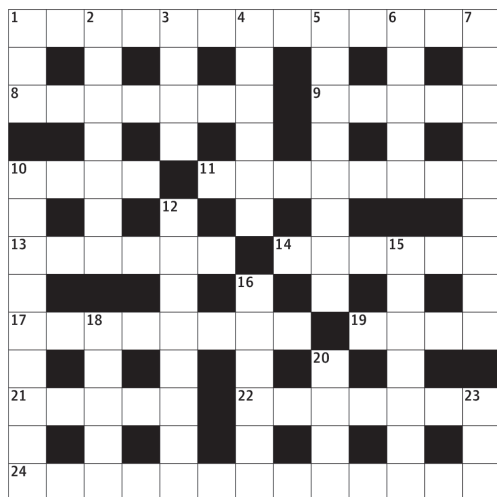
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Solution to the last Crossword Across: 5 Benbecula; 8 Uist; 9 Colonsay; 10 Harris; 11 Staffa; 13 Raasay; 15 Fetlar; 16 Berneray; 18 Mull; 19 Isle of May. Down: 1 dentures; 2 abacus; 3 scales; 4 flan; 6 vicarages; 7 taffrails; 12 autumnal; 14 yarned; 15 fly off; 17 nest.

ACROSS

1. Graham, pay Tony for New Year fun (8,5)
8. Accountants in a fog - unsuitable (7)
9. Media characters aspired (5)
10. First army detectives are sharp (4)
11. The hearing contains Chelsea for the hearing (8)
13. To horse the French switch (6)
14. Coward spirit starts being flexible (6)
17. Musician playing to the gallery - no the reverse (8)
19. In an afterthought that is tasty food (4)
21. Sweat broke out when this was wielded (5)
22. Alas, Agnes hid the dish (7)
24. Streamers itch over this when decorated (9,4)

DOWN

1. Noah's son - a bad actor? (3)
2. Go sling your hook baby bird (6)
3. A route not here (4)
4. Like bird behind the ship (6)
5. Account follows drama notice (8)
6. A gypsy loses unknown city dweller (5)
7. So elderly characters sing in the mountains (9)
10. His cat mat makes him breathless (9)
12. Rubbish in type of light opera sparkles (8)
15. Horse in one who has a go can cause a bang (7)
16. Ambled into madness (6)
18. Inside nine were fresher (5)
20. Snakes as an afterthought (4)
23. Pupil voices Scots affirmative (3)

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: *Pauline Holden, Killearn*



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Name Age.

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Mari McVicar (aged 8)

Closing Date for both competitions – 10 January 2010. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.



Nature Notes



Mistletoe is a strange plant with a long mythical and medicinal history. It is parasitic, growing on trees, mainly apple or oak in this country. It relies for propagation on birds distributing the rather sticky white berries, although it can be done by human agency if the berries are inserted in a crevice in the bark.

The survival of so many orchards in the West Midlands of England is probably the reason that Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire is known as the Mistletoe Capital, with famous auctions held each year to supply the Christmas market.

Many cultures have regarded mistletoe as sacred or having magic properties. The fact that it grows as a distinct leafy clump on a deciduous tree gives it prominence in winter, and primitive peoples believed that it was the life force or God of the tree keeping it alive until the appearance of the new leaves of spring. The Druids in particular revered it as hallowed, and it is featured in Norse legend associated with the death of Balder, God of the Summer Sun.

It was worshipped as a symbol of fertility, although interestingly the North American Indians used it to induce abortion. There have been very many instances of its use in medicine. At various times and in various parts of the world it has been used to treat countless ailments and conditions; it was a sort of cure-all. This is not merely superstition, as in modern times it has become accepted as a pharmaceutical plant, with research ongoing into the properties of its constituent chemicals, particularly in its use in cancer therapy.

Despite its interesting history, I suppose we mostly think of it as an integral part of the Christmas festivities and decoration. What would a Christmas party be without a kiss under the mistletoe?!

Jenny Wilks



Do you have any clothing, furniture, bric-a-brac or foodstuffs you can donate to charity?

Just take it along to the Blythwood truck in *Drymen Mountain Rescue car park* on **20 November 2009, 22 January 2010, 19 February 2010 or 20 March 2010.**

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King's Theatre Trip

Mrs Pauline Holden won the last crossword competition and was thrilled to get tickets for the production of 'Dinner Ladies' at the King's Theatre. Pauline told the *Courier* that she had a thoroughly enjoyable time and would encourage all the readers to enter the competitions, as a free trip to the theatre is worth winning!

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**Two courses
for under £12**

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are also available and frequently changed
to make use of fresh, local produce.

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- Weddings
- Funeral Teas
- Family Reunions
- Childrens Parties
- Special Themed Nights

THE
BLACK BULL
HOTEL



2 The Square, Killearn, Stirlingshire G63 9NG
Telephone: +44 (0) 1360 550215
Fax: +44 (0) 1360 550143 Email: sales@blackbullhotel.com
Proprietors: Daniel & Gillian Stewart

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