



# Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 52

SPRING 2022

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# Noticeboard

15 Mar	<b>Strathendrick Stitchers</b> work corners: 'A Special Stitch' and 'Pincushions'. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Susan Rhind ( <a href="mailto:strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com">strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com</a> ).	23 Apr	<b>Strathendrick Singers</b> Musical Coffee Morning. Kirk Halls, 10am –12noon. Tea, coffee, home baking, plus bottle and second-hand book stalls. Adults £3, children £2.
16 Mar	<b>Killearn Community Council</b> meeting. Zoom or face to face tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; <a href="mailto:fiona.rennie@btinternet.com">fiona.rennie@btinternet.com</a> ).	28 Apr	<b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> short talks by members of the society, including an account of the filming at Buchanan Castle for the <i>Abandoned Engineering</i> series, preceded by cheese and wine at 7.15pm and followed by the society's AGM. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a>
17 Mar	<b>The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley</b> lecture via Zoom. 'An (almost) A–Z of Modern Scottish Women Artists' by Alice Strang. 11am. <a href="http://www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk">www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk</a>	2 May	<b>Killearn Health Centre</b> closed.
17 Mar–12 Apr	<b>Strathendrick Stitchers</b> Inaugural exhibition. Drymen Library during normal library opening hours.	17 May	<b>Strathendrick Stitchers</b> AGM and Spring Lunch, including our First Annual Competition. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. For more information, contact Susan Rhind ( <a href="mailto:strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com">strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com</a> ).
20 Mar	<b>Strathendrick Singers</b> 'Sunrise' Spring Concert. Music from Norway and the Baltic region including Gjeilo's stirring Sunrise Mass. Killearn Kirk, time tbc. Tickets (£12 for adults, £3 for under-16s) from choir members or by emailing <a href="mailto:secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk">secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk</a> .	18 May	<b>Killearn Community Council</b> meeting. Zoom or face to face tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; <a href="mailto:fiona.rennie@btinternet.com">fiona.rennie@btinternet.com</a> ).
22 Mar	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> meeting. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm. Our second project, The Vine Trust.	19 May	<b>The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley</b> Lecture 'A Decorative Art: History of Wallpapers' by Jo Banham. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Check website for latest details ( <a href="http://www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk">www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk</a> ).
24 Mar	<b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> illustrated talk by Carole Primrose, 'The Vale of Tears'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a>	21 May	<b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> with <b>Killearn Tennis Club</b> Plant sale and coffee morning. Village Hall, 10am–12noon.
31 Mar	<b>Killearn Golden Years Club</b> Bingo Night. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm.	15 June	<b>Killearn Golden Years Club</b> Annual bus outing. Venue to be confirmed.
5 Apr	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> AGM followed by entertainment from Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 1.15pm. Songs suggested by members.	16 June	<b>The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley</b> Lecture 'Undressing Antiques' by Mark Hall. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Check website for latest details ( <a href="http://www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk">www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk</a> ).
6–8 Apr	<b>FADs</b> award-winning plays: <i>Housebound</i> by Simon Mawdsley and <i>Give a Little Love</i> by Alan Stockdill. Menzies Hall, Fintry. For tickets and times visit <a href="http://www.fintrydrama.org.uk">www.fintrydrama.org.uk</a> .	6 Jul	<b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> Coach trip to Glamis Castle and Gardens. Contact John Phillips (550443).
9 Apr	<b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> Coffee morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12noon.	27 Aug	<b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. For further info and updates, see <a href="http://www.facebook.com/killearnhorti">www.facebook.com/killearnhorti</a> ; <a href="http://www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk">www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk</a> ; 07788 373142.
15 Apr	<b>Killearn Health Centre</b> closed. <b>Killearn Kirk</b> Good Friday Service, 7.30pm.	<b>Please note:</b>	
17 Apr	<b>Killearn Kirk</b> Easter Service, 10.30am.	<b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> have suspended activities. Contact <a href="mailto:mikebath42@gmail.com">mikebath42@gmail.com</a> for up-to-date information.	
18 Apr	<b>Killearn Health Centre</b> closed.	<b>Killearn Village Hall Classes and Clubs</b> are listed on the page opposite. Visit <a href="http://kcfc.co.uk/killearnvillagehall/whats-on">kcfc.co.uk/killearnvillagehall/whats-on</a> for up-to-date details.	
19 Apr	<b>Strathendrick Stitchers</b> Own work day. Talk at 11am by Odile Hughson, 'Cashmere Shawls with a French Twist'. Kirk Hall, 10am–2pm. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Susan Rhind ( <a href="mailto:strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com">strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com</a> ).		
20 Apr	<b>Killearn Community Council</b> meeting. Zoom or face to face tbc, 8pm. Contact Fiona (07799 625993; <a href="mailto:fiona.rennie@btinternet.com">fiona.rennie@btinternet.com</a> ).		
21 Apr	<b>The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley</b> lecture via Zoom. 'Debo, Duchess of Devonshire' by Simon Seligman. 11am. <a href="http://www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk">www.theartssocietystirling.org.uk</a>	If you have dates of events for the spring issue of the Noticeboard (end of August until mid November), please contact Heather McArthur (07985 082678; <a href="mailto:heather.mcarthur@virgin.net">heather.mcarthur@virgin.net</a> ).	

## Killearn Village Hall Classes and Clubs

### MONDAY

**Yoga:** Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am. Suitable for all.

Contact Sarah Fleming ([sarahfleming99@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahfleming99@yahoo.com)).

**Monday Music:** Main Hall, 11.15am–12 noon.

Contact Clare ([claremondaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:claremondaymusic@gmail.com)).

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

**Dance with Julie:** Garden Room, 5.45pm–7.15pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913, [jjsymmonds36@gmail.com](mailto:jjsymmonds36@gmail.com)).

### TUESDAY

**Yoga Class For Carers:** Garden Room, 10.30am–11.30am.

Funded through Stirling Carers and free to all carers in the area.

Contact Stirling Carers (01786 447003) to attend.

**Town Break Stirling:** Garden Room, 2pm–4pm  
([www.townbreakstirling.org](http://www.townbreakstirling.org)).

**DIY circuits:** Main Hall, 6.30pm–7.30pm. All welcome.

Contact Fiona ([fiona.rennie@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.rennie@btinternet.com)) or Nick (07860 700928).

### WEDNESDAY

**Yoga Class:** Main Hall, 9.15am–10.15am. Suitable for all.

Contact Sarah ([sarahfleming99@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahfleming99@yahoo.com)).

**Tai Chi & Qigong:** Main Hall, 10.30am–11.30am.

Contact Sukyee (07910 941497; [sukyee.tai@gmail.com](mailto:sukyee.tai@gmail.com)).

**Pre-school Dance Class:** Main Hall, 4pm–4.45pm.

Contact Lynda (770390; [geolyn2000@hotmail.com](mailto:geolyn2000@hotmail.com)).

**Dog Training Class:** Main Hall, 7.45pm–8.45pm. Small

class delivering eight weeks of basic training. Contact Brian Hunter ([brian@meterology.co.uk](mailto:brian@meterology.co.uk)).

### THURSDAY

**Dance with Julie:** Garden Room, 9am–9.45am. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913, [jjsymmonds36@gmail.com](mailto:jjsymmonds36@gmail.com)).

**Pilates:** Main Hall, 10.15am–11.15am. Suitable for all. Classes

include a mix of exercises to mobilise, strengthen and tone the whole body whilst having a gentle workout too.

Contact Linda ([email@talltreesaberfoyle.co.uk](mailto:email@talltreesaberfoyle.co.uk)).

**Children's Music Class:** Main Hall, 11.15am–12 noon.

Contact Clare ([claremondaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:claremondaymusic@gmail.com)).

**Dance with Julie:** Garden Room, 12.15pm–1pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; [jjsymmonds36@gmail.com](mailto:jjsymmonds36@gmail.com)).

**Linda Turner School of Dancing:** Main Hall, 4pm–6.30pm.

Dance classes for children of all ages. Contact Lynda (770390; [geolyn2000@hotmail.com](mailto:geolyn2000@hotmail.com)).

**Dance with Julie:** Garden Room, 5.45pm–7.15pm. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913, [jjsymmonds36@gmail.com](mailto:jjsymmonds36@gmail.com)).

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

### FRIDAY

**Dancercise (adult 50+ fitness):** Main Hall, 10am–11am.

Low-impact dance-based exercise and routines for over 50s, ladies and gents. Contact Yasmin (07979 856837; [yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk](mailto:yasmin@throthegrapevine.co.uk)).

**Dance for Parkinson's:** Garden Room, 12.15pm–1.15pm. Providing creative movement and dance to the Parkinson's and mobility disorders community. Contact Julie Symmonds (07496 231913; [jjsymmonds36@gmail.com](mailto:jjsymmonds36@gmail.com)).

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

## Editorial

### WELCOME...

to the 2022 Spring issue of the *Killearn Courier*. Inside you will find items which will be familiar to you, having been sent into us by our long-standing contributors. These include the Weather Channel, Nature Notes, the Noticeboard, ponderings from Joyce Begg, local sports news, a crossword and a children's competition, to mention but a few. We think our readers look forward to them – some being informative, all being an entertaining read and some testing the brain a wee bit.

Apart from our regular contributions, we spend a lot of time between issues sourcing articles which we think our readers will appreciate and find enlightening. We also try to provide up-to-date news relative to the village. For example, this issue includes updates on the Black Bull conversion, the current position regarding the former Killearn Hospital site and traffic control measures.

We see our centre pages as being worthy of something a wee bit special. In the issue, you can read *Fire, ice and water – the shaping of Killearn's Geology* which gives you an idea how the area around us evolved. In fact, Killearn Heritage Trail has often been featured and is well worth following.

We make no apology for providing obituaries for grieving families who want to see their loved ones remembered in the *Courier*.

In short, we attempt to provide you with something that you can enjoy, learn from and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the village and surrounding area.

While we might be quite happy with what we produce for you, but the real question is: are you? Why don't you let us know? You can contact us on [courier@kfcf.co.uk](mailto:courier@kfcf.co.uk) or by sending your thoughts to 36 New Endrick Road. After all, this community news magazine is the *KILLEARN Courier*.

It is worth mentioning that all of us have to spend our hard-earned cash one way or another. One thing you get at no cost to you is your *Courier* – definitely a case where getting something for nothing is a real bargain.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Enjoy this issue and stay safe.

Ian

### Cover Image

The cover photo of mandarin ducks on the River Leven at Balloch was captured by Chris Bell on 3 January 2022 and remains his copyright. Our thanks for Chris for his permission to use the image.

## Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editor

I write on behalf of the members of Strathendrick Stitchers to express our heartfelt thanks to you, your team and your readers for your very generous sponsorship of us in this, our first year as Strathendrick Stitchers.

The sponsorship has enabled us to hold two specialist classes with renowned tutors. We have explored and learned about non-traditional Blackwork and also Stumpwork, which is 3-D embroidery technique.

We will have examples of the work achieved by our members ready for the Summer Issue of the *Courier*.

Can we also express our thanks that we are able to have an article in each of your editions.

With the grateful thanks of our members. Thank you.  
Susan Gray, Chairperson

## Busy Needles and Bright Threads

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After two long Covid years, Strathendrick Stitchers are once again able to hold our 'annual' exhibition. We will be back as usual in the Drymen Library, from 17 March until 12 April during usual library hours. We'd love to see you and show you what we've been doing all this time.

The Glasgow Society of Women Artists held their 2021 exhibition at the Maclaurin Gallery in Ayr which ran between November 2021 and January 2022. The GSWA's McCreadie Award for Embroidery was won by Strathendrick Stitchers' long-time member Maggie Murray with a textile piece 'Sea Gull's View of Lochgair'. We are delighted for this well-deserved recognition of her beautiful work. See it here: [www.themaclaurin.org.uk/the-glasgow-society-of-women-artists-2021-exhibition-winners](http://www.themaclaurin.org.uk/the-glasgow-society-of-women-artists-2021-exhibition-winners).

Members will also be looking forward to the Scottish Stitch & Textile inaugural 'Gathering' in April, which promises a wonderful day of craft and book stalls, and interesting speakers. Plus there will be an award of prizes for the first members' competition, 'Myths and Legends'. Promises to be a grand day out.

May is shaping up to be a busy month. Members have their own annual outing to enjoy, this year to the Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries to take in the Triennial Exhibition 'Threads of Hope'. If past exhibitions here are anything to go by, this one promises to be a real creative shot in the arm.

Our AGM is also in May, not to mention Strath Stitchers' own competition with the appropriate theme of 'New Beginnings'. Who will be awarded the much-coveted Quaich in this first – and very successful – year of independence?

Thanks to the generosity of the *Courier*, Strathendrick Stitchers have booked two independent tutors, who will be with us later in the session. Expect to see some of the resulting artwork in the Horti Show. Meanwhile, we do hope you'll have fun making felt ornaments this Easter. NB

## News in brief

**K**illearn residents have reasons to be proud. The Christmas Post raised £958.75 for CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland). The Christmas Post is run by a happy band of volunteers – you, in other words – and definitely not the Community Council or KCFC or even the Guides. So next year, you can bring cheer and joy to your neighbours by helping out. Contact [glenda.asquith@gmail.com](mailto:glenda.asquith@gmail.com). A good walk not ruined!.

**T**he Advent Windows raised £778.51 for Shelter. The organisers would like to thank everyone who created these wonderful displays as well as all those who donated to such a good cause. Well done!

**T**he Scottish Licensed Trade News (SLTN) at their annual awards ceremony in November shortlisted Killearn's Old Mill in the 'Best Outdoor Area' category. The shortlist comprised only three licensed premises from around Scotland. While Alice and Mark didn't win the category, it was an accolade to have been shortlisted and a worthy reward for the vision and investment in recreating their outdoor space.

**A**re you wondering why all the little roads in the Area – part of Gartness Road, Gartacharn Road, and both Balfunning Lane and Road – appear to be 'for local use only'? It's the Council's attempts to discourage them being used as rat runs (not their term!) while the A809 is closed at Croftamie. Don't let that give you any ideas, however.

**S**peaking of bridges, keep up with the latest regarding both the Croftamie and Branshogle bridges on the Killearn Community Council website: [www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk).

**S**hearer's in Balfron is applying for a full make-over. Details of the change of use from a motor workshop to a full petrol station which will include retail plus off-licence and sale of takeaway hot food can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/scxyz1>.

**S**tirling and Clackmannanshire Trading Standards are warning the public about the dangers of unregulated disposable e-cigarettes – vape bars – which contain up to 5 per cent nicotine. These are illegal because they contain more than the level of drug considered safe in the UK, which is 2 per cent. If you have concerns, particularly around underage sale of illegal vaping products, call Advice Direct Scotland (0808 164 6000).

**T**he hours of the Mobile Post Office on Tuesdays have now changed to 14:30–15:00.

## Killearn Village Hall News

We read this week that Killearn had been picked out by Savills as one of Britain's poshest villages... one of only three in Scotland. The research was based on the combination of highest house prices, best lifestyle amenities, connectivity and 'chocolate-box appeal'. (However do they measure chocolate-box appeal?) See <https://tinyurl.com/kvmdv>.

We will all have our views on whether being one of the poshest villages is an accolade we'd want to be shouting about, but what was heartening and exciting was the mention of the Village Hall and The Kitchen Window in the report, and that the hall hosts plenty of activities, from yoga to a baby music class.

Maybe that would have been more our kind of story: a day in the life of Killearn Village Hall. The bread delivery, the cleaning, the café opening and the cooking starting, the yoga classes or badminton coming in for early morning activities and then maybe a cuppa afterwards, the lunchtime rush and then dancing groups,



support groups, sewing, cubs, dog training, more dancing in the afternoons and evenings.

No day is the same and we're always looking to support community activities, none more so than the recent Advent Windows adventure. We'd like to say a huge thanks to the teachers, children and parents from Killearn Primary School for not only supporting Advent Windows – but in giving us such a lovely window display for the December period.

We do appreciate the chance to be involved in these community adventures and are looking forward to more in 2022 and to being a part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in early June. Maybe

we can be hosting a 'Big Lunch' or lighting a beacon?

Whatever day it is and whether we're a posh village or not, we're always open to ideas and looking to help support our community.

Come and talk to us about classes, family events, parties... we look forward to talking.  
[killearnvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:killearnvillagehall@gmail.com).

FIONA RENNIE

WWW.

# BLANEVALLEY

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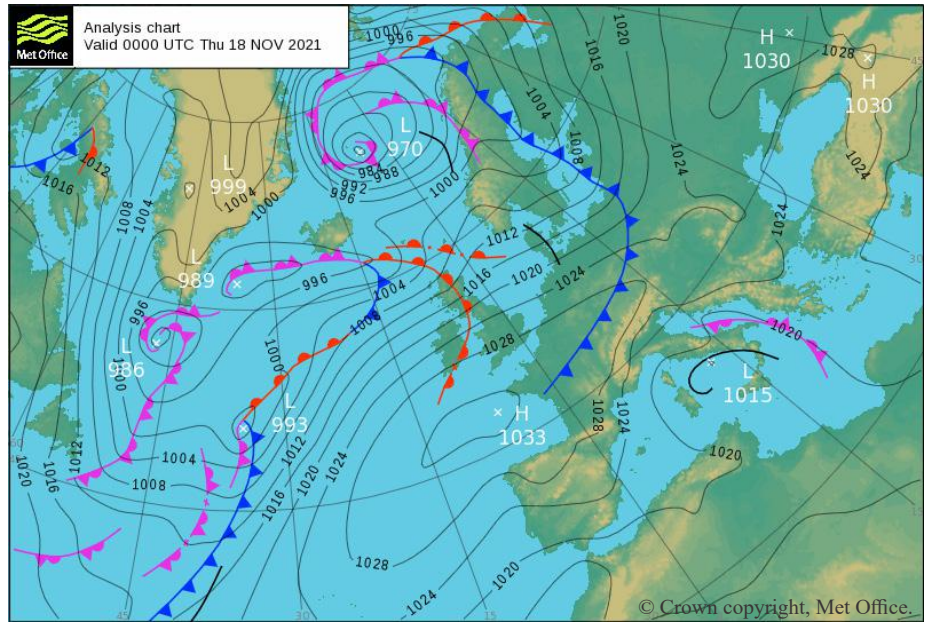
The Killearn weather year 2021 was notable for four very dry months – April through August. A feature when it did rain was its intensity, something normally associated with tropical storms. It was also a very mild year, with the monthly mean temperature not dropping below 0°C.

Just a month after hosting COP26, Glasgow reported its joint hottest summer on record. September continued the trend, being the second warmest on record throughout Scotland, and mean temperatures throughout the UK were 2°C above their long-term averages. Early winter saw storm Arwen bringing snow and very high winds to the east of the UK, and Killearn had its first snowfall on 27 November.

Many readers of the *Killearn Courier* get their weather forecast from the TV or news media. It usually starts with a weather chart showing different coloured lines, semi-circles and triangles which might look a bit daunting, but are reasonably simple to interpret.

Our daily weather is heavily influenced by the wind, and in particular its strength. The black lines (isobars) on the chart join areas of equal atmospheric pressure and they form circular shapes, areas of high or low pressure. (They are often labelled ‘H’ for high pressure and ‘L’ for Low.) On the chart, a number indicates the level of the pressure.

In the UK the average pressure is around 1013mb, and it is rare for pressure to rise above 1050mb or fall below 950mb. If these isobars are close together it will be a windy day, with the wind blowing parallel to the isobars. Winds blow clockwise around an area of high pressure usually bringing fine weather. In an area of low pressure with tightly drawn isobars, the wind blows anti-clockwise, allowing air to rise and cool. This brings rain or unsettled weather.



Two further weather chart indicators are the incidence of weather fronts. These separate warm, moist tropical air from cold, dry polar air. A warm front is usually coloured red, with semi circles pointing to its intended line of travel. It often rains ahead of a warm front and remains grey and drizzly after the front has passed. A cold front is often coloured blue, with triangles pointing in the direction of travel. It often bring a narrow band of rain followed by cooler, drier weather.

A chart can also show purple lines with both triangles and semicircles. This is an occluded front which occurs when a cold front follows and catches up with the warm front. In this case, the weather ahead of the occlusion is like that of a warm front, whereas behind the occlusion the weather will be similar to behind the cold front.

Finally, if you see a black line devoid of semi circles or triangles it is not an isobar, but an indicator of an area of unstable air that indicates a likelihood of showers.

Luckily for most folk, the person forecasting the weather studies the chart, and tells you what is likely to happen, but it is worth a try making your own forecast!

TOM RENFREW

Yearly Summary for Killearn (2021)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Highest Temp</b>	10.2	10.9	16.1	19.3	23.6	25.8	27.4	26.7	25.7	16.2	13.4	11.2
<b>Lowest Temp</b>	-7.8	-6.6	-0.3	-4.2	-0.4	4.6	8.4	7	4.7	1	-2.1	-2.4
<b>Mean Temp</b>	1	3.5	6.4	6	9	14.1	16.6	14.8	13.8	9.9	6.9	4.4
<b>Days Below Freezing</b>	21	9	1	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
<b>Highest Wind Gust</b>	28	20	27	31	26	22	16	32	22	19	34	28
<b>Monthly Rain</b>	110.2	172.8	122.2	14.8	86.5	32.2	42.2	46	85.5	163.4	56.1	75.2
<b>Most Rain in 24 hrs</b>	18.2	35.2	24.6	7.6	31.4	13.2	18.6	18.4	25.6	17.6	13.8	10.6
<b>Days without Rain</b>	9	8	15	16	15	19	20	16	9	5	7	7
<b>Cumulative Rainfall</b>	110.2	283	405.2	420	506.5	538.7	570.9	676.2	761.7	925.1	981.2	1056.4

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

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Killearn



On 6 February, The Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years as head of state.

The Community Council is working on plans to help celebrate the Queen's Jubilee here in Killearn and make the bank holiday weekend (2–5 June) a community opportunity that everyone will feel they can be part of.

Please get in touch if you are interested in helping, or have an idea/want to make a contribution at [contactus@killearncc.org.uk](mailto:contactus@killearncc.org.uk). Let's give Killearn a weekend to remember – with something for everyone. Some dates for the diary:

- Thursday, 2 June: Platinum Jubilee Beacons – the lighting of beacons is the first community event of the official Platinum Jubilee Weekend; we are hoping to light the beacon at 9.15pm
- Saturday, 4 June: the weekend is already underway with the Killearn 10k and the Killearn Beer Festival
- Sunday, 5 June: The Big Jubilee Lunch – a Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small – a street party or picnic, tea and cake, or a garden barbecue; we're looking at ideas to bring people together

See [www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend](http://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend) for more information about what is planned around the country.

# Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society News

Spring is here and new hope comes with the season. We turn to thoughts of our gardens, our seed choices and our entries for the Show – never as far away as we think. We are ever hopeful that we will all be together again this year for the Show we have so sorely missed. We had our AGM on 28 February in the Village Hall, and I passed over the role of Chair to my very capable Vice-Chair, John Phillips.

We have delayed our annual Whist Drive to give us a little more time to clear the Omicron restrictions, but hope to run it in May. May, of course, brings our plant market and I hope you are all able to come and make use of the great value plants that are all grown locally and guaranteed to like our local climate and soil.

Happy gardening and for the artists and crafters in our community – we hope your projects make it to our 2022 Show. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming dates.

HEATHER WRIGHT, CHAIR

# Athletics chief awarded MBE (or Magnificent Beattie Effort)



Killearn resident Ian Beattie has been awarded an MBE for his services to athletics. Ian – who in his professional life is Chief Operating Officer for Glasgow legal firm, Lindsays – served as Chairman of Scottish Athletics for nine years before being appointed Chair of UK Athletics last October. He is also Race Director of the annual West Highland Way Race – and is currently leading Wednesday night training for the Killearn 10K for anyone who wishes to join in!

Ian's honour was announced back in 2020 but, due to the pandemic, he was presented with his award by the Princess Royal at a ceremony at Holyrood in January of this year. Congratulations Ian!

## CLASSES WITH JANE MEEK

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# A KILLEARN HERITAGE TRAIL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Over the next few editions, the *Courier* plans to feature the recollections of some of Killearn's longest-serving residents.

To start the series, we meet two ladies, May King (right) and Margaret Gibb (far right), who were best friends at the old primary school before World War II!



## MAY KING

May King was born in Ayrshire in 1931, but moved to Killearn at the age of four with her parents, elder brother and sister. In those days, most people lived in rented accommodation which was often tied to the bread-winner's employment. As May's father's various jobs included ploughman, farmer, dairyman, long distance delivery driver and – in retirement – gardener, so the Bryden family lived in various places, including Ibert Farm Cottage and Rosebud Cottage in Main Street, as well as houses in Balfron Road and Boquhan.

May recalls the outbreak of war. She was at Sunday School with her sister, Pearl, when her brother called them home urgently! Killearn was on the flightpath of the German bombers attacking Clydebank, so for safety she was evacuated to her Granny's in Girvan, Ayrshire, for a short while.

On leaving Balfron High School, May worked for five years at the coal merchant and garage that used to be on the corner of Kirkhouse Road and Main Street. In those days there were five petrol pumps around the village – now there are none.

At the age of 22, May moved to work as a 'repetitive clerkess' at Killearn Hospital, an important employer in the area at that time. As the railway through the valley closed, and later the hospital, the nature of the Blane Valley changed over the years.

May used to socialise by going to the weekly dances in local villages – such as ones in the Co-Operative Hall in Blanefield, where Chillies now stands. She and Robert King began courting and were married in 1957. They moved into Graham Road in 1959 – then a new-build – and a few years later their daughter, Lesley, arrived.



Killearn Primary School pupils approx. 1940  
(May is the blond girl in the centre of the front row)



Coal merchants and garage at Kirkhouse Road

Bobby used to run a garage at Ballat with his brother, who was tragically killed in a motor accident on The Carse. Bobby then moved to the garage at the top of Drumtitan Road (where Drumtitan House now is) where he serviced cars until he retired.

Now 90 years old – and still sharp as a tack – May still lives in Graham Road, where her fantastic collection of garden gnomes (numbering over 500, at one time!) and spectacular Christmas lights are much admired by visitors from around the world.





## MARGARET GIBB

Remarkably, Margaret Gibb, 91 years on, still lives in the house she was born in, down at Blane Smithy. Her father, a blacksmith, was from Rhu; her mother was a farmer's daughter from Little Drumquharn. The McNeills married in 1929, daughter Jeanie was born at the end of that year and Margaret in late 1930.

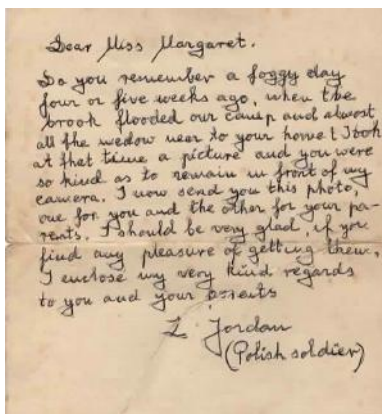
Margaret has a fantastic memory and can recall events and stories from many years ago. Her Uncle Walter had sadly drowned in an accident in the Pots of Gartness, so as children they were told not to go to the Pots, nor to the equally dangerous Devil's Pulpit. So where did they regularly go to play? The Pots and the Devil's Pulpit, of course!

Margaret went to Killearn Primary School, where her teacher was Miss Hendry (who had also taught her mother) and then on to Balfron High School. Her elder sister, Jeanie (with whom she always fought), was excellent at sport and played hockey for Scotland, whereas Margaret, who was dyslexic but excellent at arithmetic, almost got expelled for swinging on ropes and nearly demolishing the headmaster!

As well as the blacksmiths, the family ran a general store in their bothy and a petrol pump. Margaret's father was an ARP (Air Raid Patrol) officer in the World War II and Margaret remembers the 'thunder' of the Clydebank Blitz, and the building of Killearn Hospital.

During the war, Polish soldiers were encamped at Killearn House and trains ran through Killearn Station across the road next to the rifle range. Soldiers and hospital staff used to visit the family shop for newspapers, cigarettes and 'messages'.

Margaret still has a wonderful letter, dated 1940, from a Polish soldier who took a photo of her, aged 9, next to the flooding Blane River, and sent her a copy along with charming, respectful greetings.



September 1940



Margaret's father and granny both died suddenly when she was only 14, and his nephew, Duncan Sinclair (father of Nancy Kidd), took over as blacksmith. A year later Margaret left school and started work at the Smiddy (which was rented from the Lampson's of Killearn House).



Duncan Sinclair – blacksmith at Blane Smiddy

By 17 she had a driving licence (she is still driving today, 75 years later, by the way) and she used to deliver paraffin around the Duntreath Estate in a Ford 8. In 1956 Margaret married Andrew Gibb and they moved to Drymen and then Croftamie, where they had three children, Peter, Agnes and Charlotte. In 1957, Margaret contracted Asian flu and was lucky to survive – pandemics are not new!

In 1969, the Gibb's moved back to Blane Smiddy to run the shop which she owned until retiring in 1990. Extraordinarily, the empty Benson and Hedges cigarette cabinet is still on the wall – and boxes of sweets from 30 years ago are still in the store!



Blane Smiddy at the turn of the century

Margaret is full of life and tells a great tale. The full audio recording of this interview is available on the Killearn Heritage Trail Features section. It is well worth a listen.

The photos on these pages and other All Killearn Archive photos are available on the Killearn Heritage Trail website [www.killearnheritage.org.uk/category/gallery](http://www.killearnheritage.org.uk/category/gallery).

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## Thursday Club News




Upon our return to social interaction in January, we highlighted the value of DRT (Direct Responsive Transport). Members were assisted in registering for transport where there is no direct bus service and with a bus pass, travel is free.

Our thanks go to Brenda Pell for organising a grant from Killearn Community Futures. This enabled members and volunteers to enjoy a jaunt to the Winnoch Hotel in Drymen at Christmas, for a festive lunch.

In February, when the Killearn Kirk Halls were being used by the Blood Transfusion Service, we crossed the field to the Kitchen Window for afternoon tea with a lovely view.

If you are interested in joining or referring someone to our 'Social for the Third Age', with afternoon tea and transport where required, please contact: Maureen (550743/07909 872994); Alison (550155/07776 250226); Pat (550074).  
MAUREEN BLACKMORE

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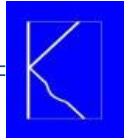
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## The Festival is Back!



The Killearn Beer Festival is happy to announce we are open for business once again for our ninth annual event, taking place at the Old Mill, Balfron Road, Killearn, on Saturday, 4 June at 2pm.

This is a community and family event with a relaxed atmosphere where you can enjoy great beers, ciders, food and music. In addition to local breweries such as Fallen and Loch Lomond, we are looking forward to sampling a host of small, independent breweries from throughout rural Scotland.

An entry fee of £6 will get you a KBF glass and tasting notes, but entry is free to non-beer drinkers for whom a range of wines will be available.

A full list of the beers and tasting notes will be posted on the Killearn Beer Fest website and Facebook pages ([www.killearnbeerfest.org.org](http://www.killearnbeerfest.org.org); [www.facebook.com/KillearnBeerFestival/](https://www.facebook.com/KillearnBeerFestival/)).

As with all events so far, the majority of money earned will be targeted toward various local clubs, schools and charities which have already been the recipients of over £5,000 of such donations.

Looking forward to seeing you!

MARK WHITE



## Horticultural Inspiration!

Save the date! The Horti is arranging a coach trip to Glamis Castle and Gardens on Wednesday, 6 July. Glamis Castle has been the ancestral seat to the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne since 1372, inspiration for Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and birthplace of HRH The Princess Margaret.

Its Walled Garden features fruits, vegetables, a fun grass maze, Monet-style fountains and a variety of fragrant flowers. Its Italian Garden, laid out around 1910 by the Queen Mother's mother, is bounded by yew hedges and includes a raised terrace and fan-shaped parterres of formal beds, separated by gravel walks.

If you're interested at this stage, please contact John Phillips (550443). More details will be announced on the Horti's website, where you can also register your interest for the latest news, updates and reminders:  
[www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk/register-your-interest](http://www.killearnhorticulturalsoc.co.uk/register-your-interest).

## Bridge by Zorro

Throughout the winter, Killearn Bridge Club has been running online using RealBridge. The ability to see and speak provides social contact for our members as well as a game of bridge. As I write in January, we continue to play online, but we are hoping to set up a few matches with other clubs to provide extra variety. To join us, please go to our website and sign up for the next Tuesday club night. For the classes or any queries, please email via the website.

This time we have a hand that was played in an Italian Championship over 60 years ago by Pietro Forquet sitting South. Its interest lies in the assessment of shape by Declarer and the devising of a suitable plan of action. West opened with three Hearts, a standard pre-emptive bid holding seven Hearts, but weak in points. After two passes, Forquet bagged the contract with a bid of four Spades.

West led the ♣2 followed by the six from North, the 10 from East, and the Ace from Forquet.

With two Clubs and a Diamond to lose, the contract seems to depend on picking up the ♠Q. In view of West's pre-empt, the odds favour cashing the ♠A and, if the queen hasn't appeared, crossing to dummy with a Diamond to the Ace to take the Spade finesse.

When Forquet cashed the Ace of Spades, lo and behold, East followed with a Club so the finesse would fail. The contract was nonetheless made. Can you see how? See page 38 for the answer.

Dealer: West	All vulnerable		
<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
	3H	Pass	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

		♠ 9 5 4		
		♥ J 5 2		
		♦ A K 8 6		
		♣ J 7 6		
		<b>North</b>		
♠	<b>West</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>East</b>	♠
♥				♥
♦				♦
♣				♣
		<b>South</b>		
		♠ A K J 10 3 2		
		♥ A		
		♦ 7 3 2		
		♣ A 9 8		

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## Cubs and Scouts bid Goodbye to Emily and Morven

Since the last edition of the *Courier*, Killearn Cubs and Scouts have had to say goodbye to two long-standing volunteers. Emily (Cubs Leader pictured right), has stepped back, but only after some outdoor cooking with Gerry Ward of the Fire and Peace Recovery, a taster at Strathendrick Rugby Club and a terrifying Halloween night walk with ghost stories narrated by an eerie figure from yesteryear (thank you, Nigel Pope!).



Since then, the Cubs have been working on their science badge, including making balloon-powered cars and building towers with spaghetti and marshmallows. Scott Chambers has now taken over as Cubs Leader, and hopes to recruit more volunteers to allow Cubs to expand.

Scouts have had a busy time: hillwalking on the Brack near Arrochar, two swimming trips (one of which was to Cameron House, thank you Andy and Natalie Roger!), a cycle from Aberfoyle to Killearn, a visit to the Mountain Rescue post at Drymen, and a bike maintenance session kindly organised by Country Cycles.

We have also had to say goodbye to Morven, who has been involved with Cubs and Scouts for over five years, latterly as the Chair of the group. Both she and Emily have given up endless hours to help the young people of Killearn enjoy the outdoors – and get away from screens. We are really grateful to them both for their help and support.

As we move out of lockdown, Cubs and Scouts want to undertake more adventurous activities further afield. To help with the costs, we are undertaking a variety of sponsored events throughout the year. We are proposing a sponsored litter pick, whereby you can sponsor a favourite walk or path to be cleaned of litter, and local business can help keep the areas around them tidy. We will be establishing an official Just Giving page and will share in due course. If you would like to sponsor an area to be cleared, please contact us at [killearnscouts@hotmail.com](mailto:killearnscouts@hotmail.com). We always split our funding with another worthy cause, and the Scouts have chosen Loch Lomond Mountain Rescue for this event. Our lovely villagers have always been supportive in the past, and we hope this will carry on!

Dib Dib!

THE SCOUT LEADERS

## Killearn Health Centre News

We are writing this in January 2022 and that is nearly two years of Covid. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to offer medical services to our patients. We thank all our patients for their ongoing patience and understanding during these trying times.

### Staff Update

Dr Margaret Carey has left us to continue her training. We look forward to welcoming her back in August 2023.

Dr Mary-Beth Patterson has left us to continue her Foundation Doctor training.

We welcome Dr Patrick Kerr who joins us for four months from April 2022.



## Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

**Please feel free to contact me if you think I may be able to help you :**

**Parliamentary Office**  
Room M2.12,  
The Scottish Parliament,  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 5995

**Email: [Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot)**  
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# Arise, Hedgehog Champions!

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog?

The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild. They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List for British Mammals.

There are many reasons, and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly creature only a character in storybooks. But you can help! Here are some simple tips:

**Link your garden with a Hedgehog Highway** – hedgehogs travel 1–2km a night searching for food and a mate. Leaving a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let hedgehogs through, but be too small for pets. Both the Hedgehog Preservation Society and the Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species sell snazzy little recyclable Hedgehog Highway signs, for a few pounds. Ask your neighbours to do the same!

**Create a wild corner in your garden** – so they can snuffle around for insects.

**Tidy up**– netting and litter can trap hedgehogs due to their spines. Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.

**Put out food and water** – you can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (not fish based). No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them. You can make a simple feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper. Details on the BHPS website: [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk).

**Stop using chemicals, especially slug pellets** – hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs and many other beasts which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables.

**Check before mowing or strimming** – hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death. Use gloves to move a single hog to safety. If there's a family, call the BHPS for advice (01584 890801), the Scottish SPCA (0300 999 999) or Google to find your local hedgehog rescue group.

**Be careful with bonfires or burning leaves** – piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to nest or hibernate – build it on the day of burning or, if you have to build it before then, check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork. Hedgehogs are usually in the centre.



**Make a home for hedgehogs** – a log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house – download instructions from the BHPS website.

**Keep an eye out for hedgehogs when driving at night** – let it

get over the road safely if you see one and if you see it too late, try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where it is least likely to be harmed.

**Make your pond safe** – hedgehogs are adept swimmers, but if they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or pools they will drown. Use a pile of large stones or piece of wood to create a simple ramp.

**Record hedgehog sightings** – including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website ([bighedgehogmap.org](http://bighedgehogmap.org)). This is important to build a picture of where they are most active and how we can encourage local populations. A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help, and you should contact one of the organisations above. If you'd like to do more, become a Hedgehog Champion. Register on the Hedgehog Street website ([hedgehogstreet.org](http://hedgehogstreet.org)), where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and parish, hedgehog friendly zones. MOIRA GRANT (Moira Grant is the local rescue volunteer and Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.)

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## There's a New CIC in Town

The Food Growers G63 Facebook group began as an effort to connect all the local food growers across the G63 postcode. I was looking to join a group and was surprised to find that there wasn't one already – so I created it! I've since registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the aim of encouraging locally grown produce in our back gardens – something akin to the Victory Garden movement of wartime.

The group is open to those who are very new to gardening or want to get started as well as experienced gardeners. The idea is that we learn from each other by sharing experience and tips. More importantly, the aim is to create a seed library for the area where people can access seeds that are locally adapted to growing and thriving in our geographical area. This seed library will be accessible and free, similar to other seed libraries that are popping up in response to climate change. You will find the seed library in the Village Hall.

The lockdown saw a resurgence in people wanting to grow their own food, and more people are enjoying the benefits of growing far superior produce in their own garden. Allotments are great, but with more demand than supply, unfortunately there can be long waiting lists. I've successfully grown a great deal of produce in containers in my small garden. I want to encourage people who think it's too difficult or not possible to give it a try while having the support and encouragement of their neighbours.

For those who want to join, here's the link:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/foodgrowersg63](https://www.facebook.com/groups/foodgrowersg63) or  
contact 07908 045439.

EMMA CALVER



### DO YOU GROW FOOD?

*Or would you like to start?*

If you'd like to connect with other food growers locally in the G63 area, why not join our Facebook group? Food Growers G63 is a local community group for those who love to grow food or those who want to learn and share tips and experience. Everyone welcome!



As a fellow gardener, I encourage all of you to follow Emma's excellent advice and grow your own. There is no greater pleasure than harvesting, cooking and eating your own produce. However be prepared to share some of that bounty with the wildlife in your garden. But don't let your frustration boil over and make you resort to slug pellets and a shotgun. Just relax and write a poem.

I plant a row of cabbages, and peas, and beans too,  
I water them and talk to them and watch them coming through.

The weeks progress, the sun does shine  
My plants they grow and grow.  
And then does come my holiday and off to Spain I go.  
I lie upon a Spanish beach and dream of recipes,  
A veggie harvest yet to come, of brassicas and peas.

The first day back, I'm out to see . . .  
It is a piteous sight.  
Moth-eaten leaves, no fruitful plot  
A wholesale garden blight.

The moral tale is this – however much you do  
There's always slugs and snails and birds  
That get there before you.  
So think quite hard before you plant  
And take this tip from me.  
Put your ground to flowers and grass  
And shop at Sainsbury.

JW



**Killearn Christmas Post  
2021**

**raised £958.75 for**



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**Thank you to everyone  
who contributed so  
generously.**

# What a load of Rubbish!

## Or is it?

We are increasing awareness of sustainability issues. Many people try to minimise the amount of refuse being sent to landfill through composting in the garden, repairing rather than replacing items or increasing second-hand usage. However, inevitably a lot of material still 'goes in the bin'.

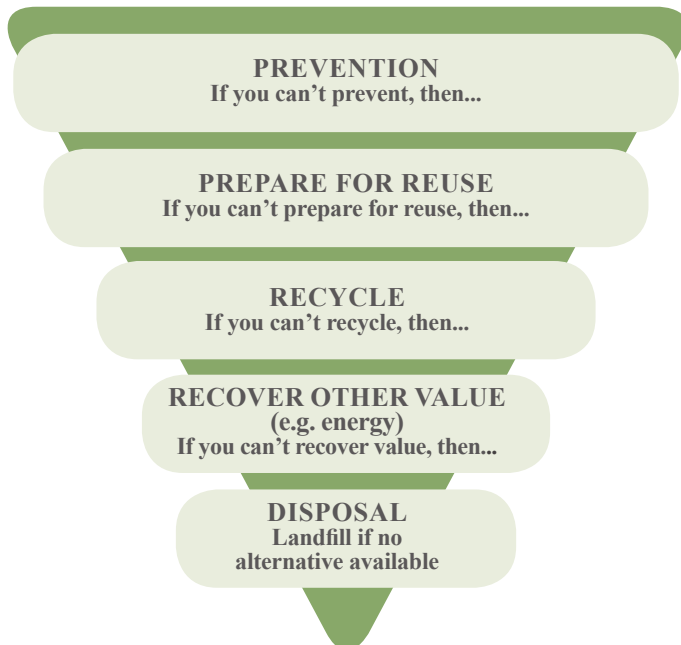
Many of us take care to sort recyclable materials from general 'grey bin' waste. But how is our recycled waste handled? To what uses is it put? By understanding what can and cannot be recycled, the *Courier* hopes to help local people 'do their bit' for the environment.

The Scottish Government has ambitious targets to reduce waste and carbon emissions. Currently, over 60 per cent of Scotland's waste is recycled. By 2025, the aim is to:

- reduce total waste arising in Scotland by 15 per cent against 2011 levels
- reduce food waste by 33 per cent against 2013 levels
- recycle 70 per cent of remaining waste
- send no more than 5 per cent of remaining waste to landfill

It's a sobering fact that household food waste alone accounts for 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions – 2.1 per cent of Scotland's carbon footprint.

## WASTE HIERARCHY



Stirling Council operates a reasonably comprehensive recycling programme, compared with many local authorities, with regular collections of recycling bins and boxes and domestic waste bins.

**In 2019,**  
the Council collected  
**14,623**  
**tonnes**  
of domestic waste



Stirling Council Waste Transfer Station

## PLASTICS, CANS AND CARTONS (BLUE BINS)

These are collected every four weeks and taken to the Lower Polmaise Waste transfer station and then transported about 30 miles to the Biffa Broxburn Material Recovery Facility. At the MRF, Biffa sort out all the blue bin material by hand and machine into plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (PTT), separating out aluminium and steel cans, cartons and other waste, which is classed as contamination. Once separated, the material is baled and sent to a reprocessor to be recycled. Aluminium and steel cans are ground up and melted down to form metal ingots and then sold on the market. Plastic bottles and PTT are sent to a secondary MRF, where they are further broken down by plastic type and colour, then shredded, melted down and turned into pellets, which are made into recycled plastic products. Stirling Council aims to match the EU ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable or reusable by 2030. Contaminants are sent to a reprocessor where they are dried and turned into 'solid recovered fuel' and incinerated to produce energy.

**In 2019,**  
the Council sent  
**1,772**  
**tonnes**  
of blue bin  
material  
for recycling

## EXAMPLES OF BLUE BIN CONTAMINATION

Black Plastic Trays | Food Waste | Food Contaminated Plastics | Packaging | Polystyrene, rubber and textiles | Soft Plastic Films\* (plastic bags, cling film, bread bags, vegetable packaging) | Hard Plastic Items (e.g. toys) | Crisp packets | Pet Food Pouches | Plastic Coat Hangers

\* Some supermarkets, like our Co-op, are now collecting soft plastic items to recycle.



## PAPER AND CARDBOARD (GREEN BINS)

These are currently collected every four weeks and taken to the Lower Polmaise Waste Transfer Station, from where it is transported to the Saica Natur Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Croy. At the MRF, Saica Natur sorts the green bin material by both hand and machine into cardboard, newspaper and pamphlets. Other waste, which is classed as contamination, is separated out. The paper and cardboard are sent to a paper mill in Manchester where they are recycled into materials such as cardboard, paper, blue roll and paper towels. Contamination is incinerated and the energy produced is converted to power.

**In 2019,  
the Council sent  
3,579  
tonnes  
of green bin  
material  
for recycling**

## EXAMPLES OF GREEN BIN CONTAMINATION

Tetrapaks | Padded Envelopes | Metals (cans) | Compostable Takeaway Packaging (e.g. vegware cannot be recycled, only composted) | Takeaway Coffee Cups | Plastic-lined cardboard Food Packaging | Used Paper Towels/Tissues | Greasy Pizza Boxes/Cardboard Takeaway Boxes | Polystyrene | Plastic Bottles/Bags | Glass

## GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE (BROWN BIN)

Brown bins are collected every fortnight and sent to a composting facility where the contents are picked for any contamination. They are then shredded and subjected to 'in-vessel composting'. The resulting compost is sold on to the agricultural market, and some is made available to the public as Castle Compost. Contamination is sent to landfill.

**In 2019,  
the Council sent  
10,011  
tonnes  
of brown bin  
material  
for recycling**

## EXAMPLES OF BROWN BIN CONTAMINATION

Rubble | Soil | Turf | Timber | Logs | Gravel/Stones | Ash | Pet Waste | Packaging

## GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS (BLUE BOX)

These are collected every four weeks and sent to the Viridor glass recycling facility at Newhouse where material is separated into glass, metal, aggregate and contamination. The glass is then further sorted by colour (green, clear and brown) and sent to a recovery facility where it is turned back into bottles and sold back on to the market. Glass can be endlessly recycled with no loss of quality. The aggregate is used as pipe bedding for gas and water pipes, while any identified contamination is sent to an incinerator to be used as fuel in an 'energy from waste' plant.

**In 2019,  
the Council sent  
2,388  
tonnes  
of mixed glass  
material  
for recycling**

## CONTAMINATION

When recyclable materials are disposed of incorrectly, an entire load of material risks being rejected for recycling and could end up being incinerated or even sent to landfill. Contamination must be avoided because it can be dangerous to workers (e.g., batteries are hazardous waste) and may even damage machinery.

NH (with thanks to Gemma Dodds and Stuart Stockman, Stirling Council Waste Services)



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## Simple Pleasures

In my childhood home, hanging on the spare bedroom wall, we had a watercolour done by Great-Aunt Nellie, one of the better artists in our family. The painting was of a country cottage, with a garden of flowers and a couple of hens at the back door. There was also a line of washing, flapping in the breeze. It was a common enough image, but very appealing. It spoke of a simple life, of contentment with ordinary things, and the very real pleasure of getting your washing dried, free of charge and smelling of roses.



the back, where her garden was studded with clumps of the flowers, bursting with energy. She brought out a spade and a copy of *The Herald*, and set about digging them up. If only to stop her succumbing to the heart problem I understood she suffered from, I took the spade from her hand and did it myself. At her insistence, I took 10 small bundles, wrapped them in *The Herald*, thanked her effusively, and brought them home. After planting,

not all of them made it, but lots of them did, and they are still there decades later, an annual delight.

People in towns also find small things that give them pleasure, of course they do, some that don't appear in the country, and some that do. Flowers are flowers wherever they grow, and there are plenty of city gardens, some of them even vertical. But there aren't many country cottages, or grassy lanes. At the time of writing, the snowdrops have appeared in the Old Manse garden, along the edge of the lane down to the park, and they raise the spirits immeasurably. The tunnel of winter has indeed got light fast approaching. The days are getting noticeably longer, and in town or country absolutely everyone gets to enjoy that.

When I think of snowdrops, I remember the elderly lady I once gave a lift to from the Church Hall down to Allan Road. During the short trip, the conversation turned to snowdrops, and I told her I had bought snowdrop bulbs several times with no success at all. She said that wasn't the best way to win with snowdrops. What I had to do was transfer established clumps of snowdrops from another garden to mine, and would I like some of hers. Nothing would do but I follow her into her house and out

By the time this goes to print, the crocuses and daffodils will be splashing the place with colour, which will be wonderful. But there is something about the first snowdrops that particularly cheers the soul. Even if the snow appears after they do, they always make it through. This spring the feeling of coming out of hibernation will be stronger than ever, for all the usual reasons, and also for the new ones. Is it tempting Providence to suggest that the long hard dread of the last two years is giving way to relief and the promise of better things? We can certainly hope so.

In the meantime, there are lots of small things to enjoy, from listening to the birds singing their heads off, and the children racing each other round the park at the end of a school day, to watching progress on the new flats. Lots of the children make their way up there as well, just to admire the heavy machinery. And always, on fine spring days, there is the sight of washing on the whirly, flapping in the sunshine. Perhaps only those in charge of the laundry know how that feels, but it is certainly one of life's simple pleasures.

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## A Class Act

Balfour High School was always academically very good. However, in the era before the new school was built, it was not an easy place to work. There weren't enough classrooms, so teachers and pupils spent a great deal of time trailing from one end of the building to the other. I taught in the English Department, but since I didn't have a room, I had to carry everything I might need for each lesson and to make do with whatever classroom might be available. I remember during one term having to use a chemistry laboratory where the pupils had to sit on high stools and would amuse themselves by turning on taps and trying out equipment.

In those days, the entire site was a jumble of mobile classrooms which reduced the playground space for the pupils and which involved, for both teachers and pupils, endless trekking from the main building across to the mobiles, regardless of weather. Despite the fact that it was officially spring, the winter had been cold and snowy and the playground, on this occasion, was treacherously icy. I was timetabled to teach a class for a double period in one of the mobile classrooms.

The Higher English poetry lesson was well under way. About 20 minutes into the lesson a young second-year pupil came into the classroom to inform me that there was a telephone message for me at the office in the main building. This had never happened before and I was rather

anxious in case there had been some kind of accident or bad news involving a member of my family. I decided that I could leave the class for a few minutes. I gave them detailed instructions on rereading the poem and jotting down some ideas for a critical essay. It was a good class and I knew that I could trust them. I made my way to the office. However, of the four people working there, not one secretary knew anything about a message for me. I thought this was rather strange, but I made my way back to the mobile classroom to continue the lesson.

The classroom was empty! I couldn't believe it! I had to sit down. What should I do? How could 25 teenagers disappear? What would the Headmaster think of me when I reported that I had lost them? I imagined the headline in the *Stirling Observer*. Would I be on the Scottish news on TV? One thing was for certain. My teaching career was over. I went over to the window and gazed at the dreary length of George Street vaguely hoping that something would happen.

What did then happen was that the classroom door opened. In they came, looking a bit sheepish. They had apparently been hiding under the supporting structure of the classroom. 'April Fool', they chanted. I should have been angry, but I was so relieved to see them that I had a good laugh with them instead.

CHRISTINE BOWIE



# turnip the beet



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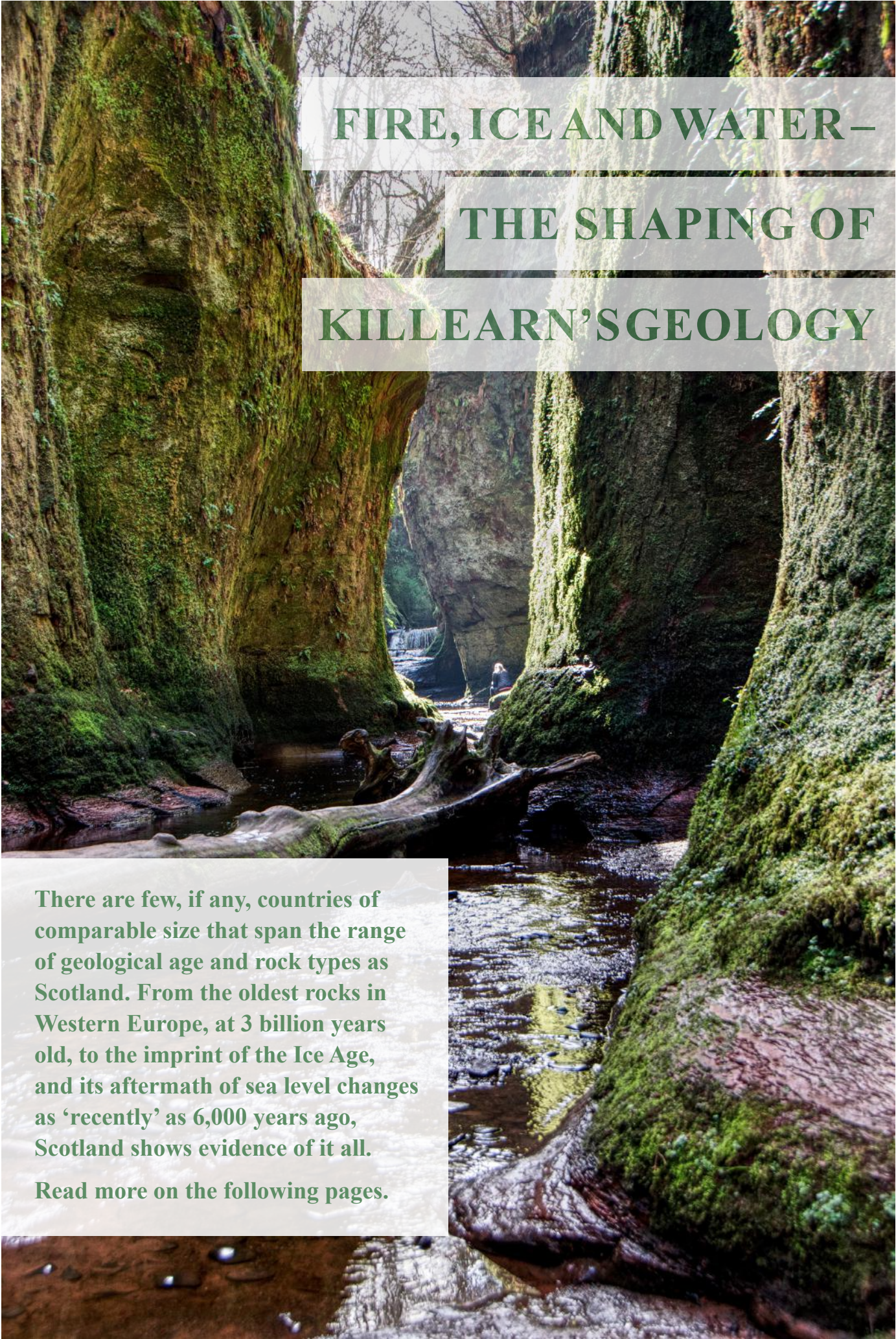
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# FIRE, ICE AND WATER – THE SHAPING OF KILLEARN'S GEOLOGY

There are few, if any, countries of comparable size that span the range of geological age and rock types as Scotland. From the oldest rocks in Western Europe, at 3 billion years old, to the imprint of the Ice Age, and its aftermath of sea level changes as 'recently' as 6,000 years ago, Scotland shows evidence of it all.

Read more on the following pages.



Geological time is so vast that scientists use particular abbreviations to make it easier to grasp. So one million years is represented by ‘Ma’ which stands for ‘mega annum’.

For most of its history, the area that is now Scotland was part of the Laurentian Continent (broadly what is now North America and Greenland), often near the eastern edge, but sometimes in a more landlocked location.

Our area reveals evidence of a gigantic, slow-motion, complex collision of continents and its immediate aftermath. The major collision, which started 450 million years ago (Ma), was the Baltica paleocontinent smashing into Laurentia at a speed of perhaps 4–5cm a year, over tens of millions of years. A reasonable modern analogy is the collision of the Indian sub-continent with Asia, forming the mountain belt of the Himalaya, which is still happening today.



channels can be seen in cross-bedding in the sandstones (sometimes visible in building stones), caused by the shifting sand bars.

A key aspect in the evolution of the early plants was the development, by 400Ma, of root systems. One effect of this was a change the way water moved across the landscape, from braided channels to more stable meandering river systems. Early plant roots also helped

trap more cohesive mud on flood plains. This effect increased through the Devonian Period (as the Old Red Sandstone geological time is called). Another key effect at this time was the increase in photosynthesising vegetation.

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants use sunlight to make nutrients from carbon dioxide and water.

This drew down CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and started to increase oxygen levels. Over time, a global cooling took place.

### THE OLD RED SANDSTONE

As the mountains rose to (what is now) the northwest, basins subsided in the Midland Valley area, catching the vast quantities of sediments eroding off the peaks. Eventually the uplift ceased, but the erosion continued, with huge braided river systems carrying sands and pebbles from the direction of Scandinavia, as well as off the flanks of the peaks. This formed the Old Red Sandstone, which is the major rock type in the Killearn area, and is at least 4km thick. The characteristic red colour is due to the presence of iron oxide, primarily hematite (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

### THE GREENING OF THE CONTINENTS

It is difficult today to picture an Earth with no plant life, but the very earliest land plants had only just started to form. So there was really no vegetation to hold back the erosion of the high ground, and river systems were braided, with readily shifting channels. Evidence of these

### LAVAS ERUPT

Around 360Ma, far to the south of our area, another continental collision was commencing. All the Earth’s landmasses were coalescing into a single continent that geologists call Gondwana. This was the start of the Carboniferous Period.

Many and various were the stresses on the landmasses, but by 340Ma a ‘relaxation’ allowed magma to rise to the surface, notably along a buried weakness running 45km from what is now Dumbarton to Fintry.

A series of plugs or vents, from Dumbarton Rock to Dunmore and Dunbeg – including Dumgoyne – show where lavas poured from cones and fissures to a thickness of nearly 1,000m.

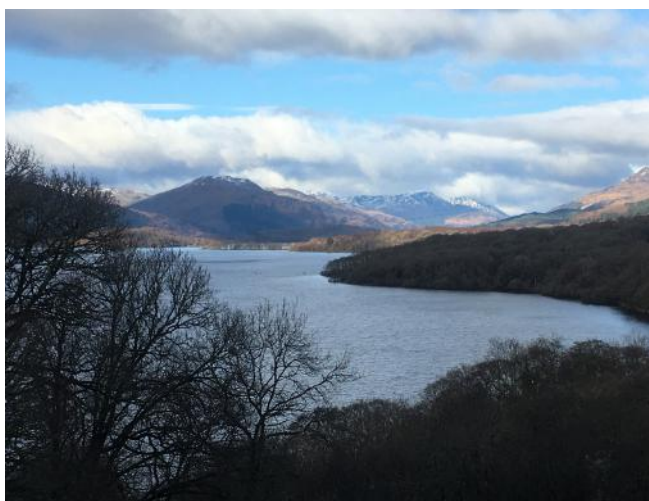
The individual flows on the Campsie and Gargunnock Hills are clearly visible, where the weathered flow tops alternate with the tougher, more resistant interiors, which form the steep steps.



### LITTLE EVIDENCE, BUT THEN THE ICE AGE

Most geology after the lava flows has been removed by erosion in our area. Geological interest rises again with the effects of the Ice Age, which started at 2.6Ma (keep in mind that 2cm on our timeline). Some 17 major alternations of cold and temperate climates have been identified in the British record, but each successive ice advance erased the traces of previous ones in Scotland.

The end of the last major event dates to 14,000 years ago, by which time significant features such as the over-deepened trench of Loch Lomond had been formed. The climate became temperate and remained so for a thousand years, but then...



### THE ICE COMES BACK AND 'KILLEARN' IS SUBMERGED

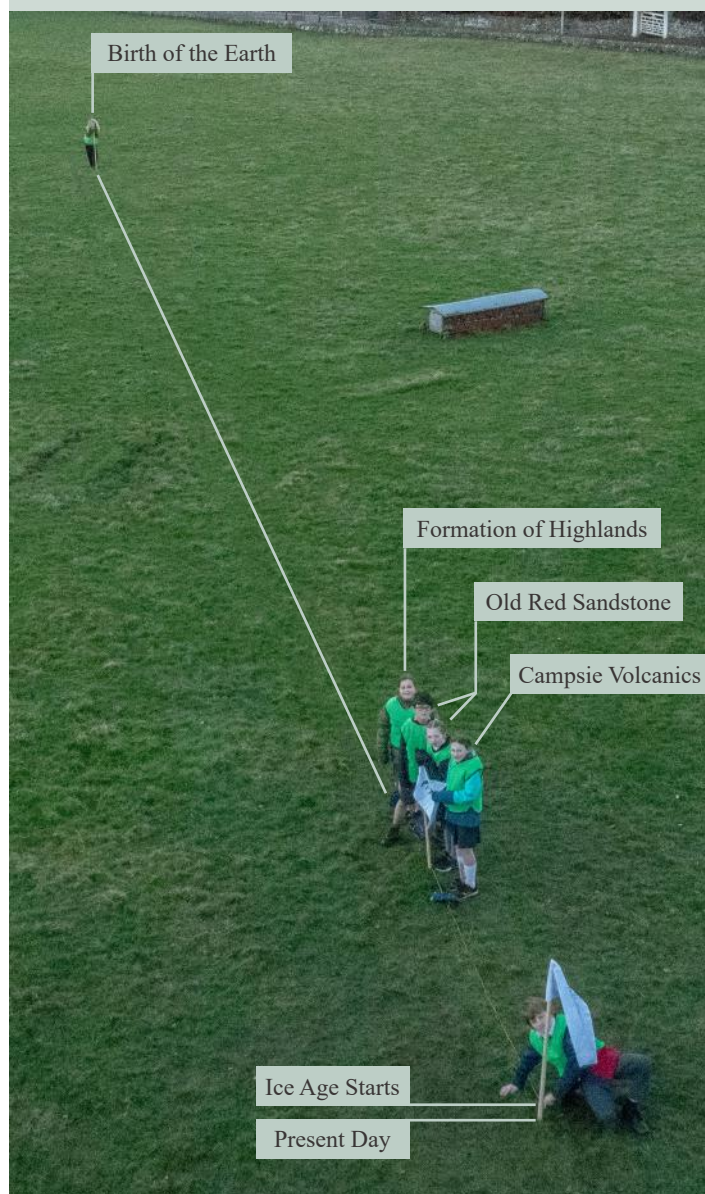
Well, nearly. A few thousand miles to the west, something dramatic happened. A huge ice-dammed lake, occupying the Hudson Bay area, broke free and flowed into the North Atlantic.

All of that sudden input of fresh water changed the salinity and density of the ocean. The thermohaline circulation slowed, and the temperature of Scotland plummeted by 5C°.

Glaciers reformed and, in this area, advanced down Loch Lomond, damming the flow of the River Endrick and the Blane. A lake formed, which remained for 260 years. Its surface would have been at 65m on a modern map, so lapping onto fields just below Killearn, with the last houses on Station Road under water (hypothetically!). The overflow went east, into what is

## GEOLOGICAL TIMELINE

Children from Killearn Primary School helped to construct a timeline to illustrate when, in the Earth's history, the geological features in the Killearn area were formed. They calculated that, with the birth of our planet taking place around 4.5 billion years ago, which they represented with a 45m line, they had to travel more than 40 of those metres towards the present to reach the start of the formation of the Highlands. The start of the Ice Age was just 2cm from the near end.



now the Forth Valley, along the course of the Auchentroig Burn by Ballat crossroads on the A81. The lake eventually drained as the ice dam melted.

### AND FINALLY

As the work with the Primary School ended, a pupil asked one of the big questions: 'What happened in all the rest of time?'

But that is another set of stories altogether.

CAMPBELL FORREST

## McFarlane's Under New Ownership

McFarlane's, the ironmongers in Balforn, is now in the ownership of Killearn couple, Jo and Richie McHugh. Previous proprietor, Elsie, was keen to sell the long-established business as a going concern and the McHughs were looking for a new venture close to home.



Richie also runs Kelvin Timber in Milngavie and sees synergy in operating both businesses. They are looking to introduce an ordering system for timber such as fencing, decking, doors, etc., which can be placed locally through McFarlane's, as well as the opportunity to discuss requirements.

The family have lived in Killearn for over five years and are pleased to have this business located close by so they can share the workload as well as family life, and continue with the running of the timber operation in Milngavie. There will be scope for a part-time worker.

McFarlane's Hardware and Ironmongery will remain the Aladdin's Cave it always has been, but with the addition of fresh lines in homeware, range of dog treats and longer opening hours. Jo and Richie welcome customers to stop and browse – you're bound to come out with more useful items than you intended!

GS

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## Where is the Value in the Wine Shelf Today?

Wine prices, like many other daily essentials, have seen increases over the last two years beyond what we would have expected in more normal times. It is hard to resist becoming political when considering some of the issues faced, but here we look at the best value for money in wine right now.

This is never the cheapest wine – it simply cannot be when excise duty is £2.23 per 75cl bottle. So – just quickly – a few sums to identify the sweet spot.

In a £5 bottle of wine, the value of the wine itself is worth roughly £0.25, whereas in a £20 bottle it is £6.98, which means nearly 28 times more is paid for the wine itself. But spending £20 on a bottle of wine doesn't feel like a sweet spot. Maybe a special occasion.

Because a lot of the things you get in a bottle of wine are fixed prices, such as the tax, it isn't too difficult to narrow down the price at which you get the most return for your money, and thus the best value for money.

Right now, that sweet spot is £10 because you get six times more value in the wine itself (£1.50) compared to the £5 wine, while only paying twice the amount.

So, having perhaps decided to go for that £10 bottle, which regions and countries will give you the most wine for your money? Here are three suggestions.

The old classic, Australian Shiraz, is very good quality at this price point after tariffs being imposed by China have seen a renewed focus on the UK market.

South African Chenin Blanc is often seen in the UK as an inexpensive quaffable wine, but at a slightly higher price point, it offers complexity and elegance.

The ever-popular Argentinian Malbec is very much worth spending a little more on, as the structure becomes more refined and the characteristics more interesting.

Here's another idea. We typically associate Portugal with fortified wines, but now we are buying really good lighter wines. And if you haven't yet tried them, the red wines from Portugal can be outstanding quality.

ELAINE TAYLOR



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# Felt Fun for Easter

**Making cute shapes from felt is easy and fun.  
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## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Templates for eggs or whatever shape you fancy. Biscuit cutters are handy for this; free egg templates (and decorating ideas) can be found here: [www.paper-and-string.net/shop-83](http://www.paper-and-string.net/shop-83).
- Felt – several colours if you have them
- Pins – long ones are useful
- Embroidery threads or regular sewing thread
- Sewing needles
- Scissors: two pairs, one for paper and one for fabric
- Pencil or pen to draw your shape
- Decorations such as buttons, beads, ribbon, sequins, braid; anything you can tack or glue down
- Ribbon or cord for hanging, 20–25cm for each decoration
- Stuffing: toy stuffing (polyester filling) if you have it; cotton wool or bits of yarn are fine, too; you'll need more than you think!



## MAKE YOUR DECORATION

Use your shape to make a template on paper and cut it out with your paper scissors.

- Pin your template to your felt and carefully draw around it. Take the template off and carefully cut it out with fabric scissors. If you want your egg to be the same colour on each side, fold your felt or fabric in half and pin your template through both layers. Draw your shape on to it. Then carefully cut both layers out at the same time with your fabric scissors. Simple shapes can be cut out around the template without an outline.
- Decorate your shapes! Make sure you keep track of which piece is the back and which is the front.



- Fold your hanging ribbon into a loop. Put the ends inside one half of your shape, and use a few stitches to tack it to the felt.
- Stitch your shapes together, with the hanger between the two pieces. It helps, pin the two sides together. Knot your thread and start your stitch from the inside of either shape to conceal the knot. Your stitching can be as simple or as decorative as you wish. A running or whip stitch will work just fine. You might also think about using blanket stitch for that real folkie look. (Don't know how? See [rsnstitchbank.org/wall](http://rsnstitchbank.org/wall).)
- Stuff your decoration, and don't skimp on the filling. If your shape is complicated, try stuffing as you stitch. Use your pencil to help you push the filling into the decoration. For a simpler shape, like an egg, when you're almost finished stitching, leave a gap, push the stuffing into the shape. Once you've stuffed your shape, stitch the gap closed.
- Hang up your decoration and admire!

STRATHENDRICK STITCHERS

The Community Council has been continuing to work closely with Stirling Council to pass on the information from the community and vice versa. In this year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are looking to bring together individuals and groups to plan for some community activities to help celebrate.

Locally, we continue to review all planning applications, and monitor and report on ongoing ones. We're really pleased to see the continued progress at the former hotel site with the timber kit being erected, and the project still remains on programme for an August completion.

The CALA development for 89 homes was approved at a special planning meeting on 19 January. CALA anticipate a start on site by early summer 2022, which will initially be decontamination work, and in accordance with the planning approval, decontamination will now take place in two stages, the first stage supporting the residential area. This project marks a milestone in development of the long-empty site and we look forward to working with CALA to ensure that the wider community interests are supported throughout.

Consultation regarding the path to the village from the CALA development has now recommenced and houses on the site cannot be sold until an initial link path to the village has been completed.

In parallel with plans for a route directly up Station Road, there is support for a separate pedestrian and cycle route inside the woods bordering Station Road. This is likely to be a longer-term project, involving discussion with landowners and applications for funding.

The proposal to develop 11 affordable houses at the bottom of Lampson Road is proceeding, and once funding is approved it is anticipated a start will also be made by summer 2022.

## Broadband Report

---

As I write this in January, little seems to have changed, particularly in the Branziert and Drumbeg Loan. The R100 status for non-upgraded premises in the village continues to show completion expected by September 2022. Additionally, the approval of broadband voucher applications, which was supposed to compensate for delays in the main work, also appears to have stalled. However, there a few rays of hope to report.

An upgrade contract for the primary school, to enhance their connectivity via a BT supplied cellular connection, has apparently been agreed and some initial survey work had been done around the premises just before Christmas. The implementation date remains uncertain.

Following recent Openreach work along Balfron Road and the top of Station Road, the Kirk and Health Centre now have access to FTTP, but this good fortune doesn't include the Village Hall or premises just across the road.

Regarding other matters, there are ongoing concerns around parking in the area at the Distillery. We have written to elected members and the Roads Department and will work with them on plans for monitoring and associated works.

In terms of road improvements, work is scheduled for repairs at the junction of Lampson Road and Napier Road, whilst traffic-slowing measures for Main Street are being progressed and monitored by Stirling Council and the police. The introduction of the crossing on Main Street around or north of Well Green will assist traffic calming, and the council is conducting a feasibility study into the option for a crossing at the Branziert Road entrance

The Branziert area and many of the roads in 'The Trees' continue to have problems with broadband speed and we would encourage anyone affected in those areas to contact the Broadband Group which is investigating a wireless provision. The Community Council, in association with the Broadband Group, are pursuing elected members to assist improvement both here and at the primary school.

Caledonian Water Alliance are replacing the pipe and supports at the bridge in the cow field. This will take three to four weeks from 21 March. This will be followed by replacement piping at the sewage works which will take the remaining eight weeks for the project. The temporary track will be removed and ground reinstated on completion.

We are always looking for new members of the Council and anyone interested should contact any Council member for further information or check our website ([www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)).

JIM PTOLOMEY

The Kirk Session is looking into whether they will take up this possibility of an FTTP connection.

In the Trees estate, Euan Shaw has been working to progress an upgrade project to bring ultrafast connectivity online which looks positive and imminent for Elm, Elder and Cedar Road residents, though additional take-up is required from residents in Rowan Crescent. Once the necessary level of support has been achieved, the voucher applications for those eligible can be made. Meanwhile, it is hoped to offer a further extension to include Kirkhouse Road in the next three months.

In a broader context, we continue to try to find out the real status of R100 and why the voucher applications are not making progress. To conclude, it seems that the roll-out of Digital Voice is coming to households in the village sooner than expected. See issue 50 for more information.

DOUG ASHWORTH  
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



## Sheep Worrying

This time of year presents the problem of sheep worrying, which is an offence. 'Worrying' includes attacking or chasing sheep. In some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep. It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call. If you live in or near a farming area, you should ensure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep.

If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The owner and, if different, handler of the dog at the time, could face criminal action. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce or a dog being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep. Farmers and members of the public are urged to report all incidents of livestock worrying.

Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which offers guidance for people enjoying the countryside with their dogs. The Code also gives advice when you are around sheep ([www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/dog-walking](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/dog-walking)).

## Theft

Sneak-in thefts have occurred in the Blanefield and Fintry areas. It is important to remain vigilant and please report anything suspicious to the police.

## Bogus workmen

From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and convincing.

Anyone can be fooled, as these people are professional con artists and the over-60s are targeted the most. Residents in Killearn have been victims of them in the past.

## Fraud

Fraud is still a very common way to steal money. Cyber fraud is the most common form of financial crime affecting Scotland. Fraudulent sales and purchases is one of the most common forms of cyber fraud.

Fraudster either advertise products that do not exist, or agree to buy items and then don't pay for them. This is done on sites such as eBay, Gumtree, etc. Beware!

## Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham is based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). If you want any further information or advice on any of the items raised in this report, please contact him.

Information and updates are regularly published on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice.

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## Rise of a New Local Landmark



In our edition last summer, we recorded 'Demise of a Well-known Local Landmark', in other words, the demolition of the Killearn Hotel, the local hostelry better known as The Black Bull.

The demolition opened up a panorama towards Dumgoyne and the Campsies, a view not seen since the 18th century.

However, this new open space was to be short-lived, as work on the 16 flats has progressed steadily.

At the time of writing, the walls of the second floor are already in place.

By the time you receive our next summer edition, Killearn Court should be home to its new residents, set to become a new local landmark.

PW

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## Scam Alerts

I only have a couple of ‘new’ scams for this issue. But beware, because the scammers are getting stealthier.

The main thing at this time of year involve scams relating to tax queries or refunds. HMRC will never get in touch with you this way. Always report these to your bank.

This next one is reminiscent of emails asking for help to buy a shop voucher for them (often from Amazon) or to send money as their wallet had been stolen. You’re too smart for that one now, so here’s the new wrinkle. Your family WhatsApp group has received a series of messages apparently from one of your group. The first few messages are basically just to gain confidence, because a different phone number is being used. The scammer, pretending to be a family member, texts that the old phone’s been replaced so there’s a new number, and later saying that they can’t take a call from you because they’re otherwise occupied. Then the sting: invoices need to be paid, but, oh dear, the bank hasn’t yet approved the new phone. You are asked to pay, and you’ll be reimbursed. Account details do checkout as genuine, but all this has been created with the purpose to scam you! If it sounds ‘off’, it probably is. Find a different way to contact the ‘family’ member to check the story.

## Scammers are getting stealthier

‘Scareware’ emails threaten to expose your information as a result of infecting your computer. Whilst these are almost certainly just a scam, it does no harm to change passwords, preferably on a different device.

Apparently scammers are now calling you with the incoming phone number purporting to be either the local police number or your bank contact number (found on back of credit/debit card). These, again, have the appearance of being genuine. The caller spins you some story which they hope will either lead to you giving them all your account details or to putting through a payment to them. Don’t fall for it.

Oldies but baddies are still kicking around, too. ‘Ebay’ asking you to change your password due to an invasion on your account; ‘Asda’ informing you that you’ve won a competition; ‘Royal Mail’ trying to deliver incorrectly addressed parcels, needing a form filled with information – including your bank details – to pay a small re-delivery charge.

Then there’s the all-purpose scam: your account needs ‘updating’. And please, don’t be fooled by invitations to get involved with BitCoin!

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## West Homes

West Homes estate agency is based in the old bank building on Main Street, and is run by local man Roscoe West. It is good to see the building back in commercial use, and over the winter months it was cheering to see the lights on and the illuminated 'for sale' window display shining forth.

Roscoe was brought up in Killearn and attended the local schools. He therefore brings a uniquely local knowledge of the area to his business. Coupled with this is his professional expertise as area director in both the Stirling and Bearsden offices of one of Scotland's largest independent estate agencies. The decision to set up his own agency was prompted by the public move towards supporting local business during the pandemic, a support that Roscoe has seen sustained since he opened for business in November 2021. As the West family had moved back to Killearn, this was the obvious place to establish the business.



'Being based in the G63 area gives the advantage of being the local estate agent and is a positive addition to the normal use of online portals such as Rightmove and Zoopla,' says Roscoe. He enjoys giving clients personal guidance through the whole process, from preparing and dressing the home for sale, listing it to negotiating the sale.

Although Roscoe's first taste of estate agency was a work experience placement when at Balforn High, this was not the career path he followed on leaving school. The tough business of making sales was first learned through selling photocopiers for Canon/Xerox. There then followed a move into catering, an industry already familiar to him through his parents. He set up and ran Roscoe's Deli Bar in Hyndland, and when this was sold, he moved into estate agency. He started at the bottom and quickly progressed to area director, utilising the skills he had previously gained in sales, running a business and talking to people.

Roscoe is delighted to be doing a job he enjoys, running his own business and being able to do all this in his home village. His future aims are to grow the business and introduce the provision of letting and mortgages to the services he already provides. GS

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# STRATHENDRICK Classic & Sports Car Club



Some readers may immediately notice our change of name and logo since the last issue of the *Courier*. As our membership has changed over the years, and also with a view to making the club more attractive to a younger audience who typically have younger cars, our AGM meeting in November voted for the change. This seems to be working, as we have had 10 new members this year. We are in the process of setting up our own website over the next few months, so by the next issue you should be able to see more of our activities.

Over the worst of the winter our members decided to continue with online events, only returning to a Dinner and Talk in February. January videos covered a HERO (Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation) event in Northern Spain and Portugal last summer ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsyXFPldnH8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsyXFPldnH8)), a BBC programme about Argyle Sports Cars Ltd. in Lochgilphead featuring the Argyle Turbo G.T. (shown above) designed by Bob Henderson in the 1980s ([www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06nx3zn/player](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06nx3zn/player)), and our own summer CarBQ.

At our February meeting, an excellent dinner at Ross



Priory was followed by a talk covering the history of world land speed records; from the earliest in the 19th century of 39mph, to the 1000mph jet-powered 'missile' of today.

We have a full summer programme of daytime tours planned, taking in a variety of lunch venues across central Scotland as well as an overnight stop to Gatehouse of Fleet. If the local shows are run this year, we also hope to have a presence there. Meanwhile, if you would like to join us or find out more about the club, you can contact me ([SCSCC.Sec@gmail.com](mailto:SCSCC.Sec@gmail.com)).

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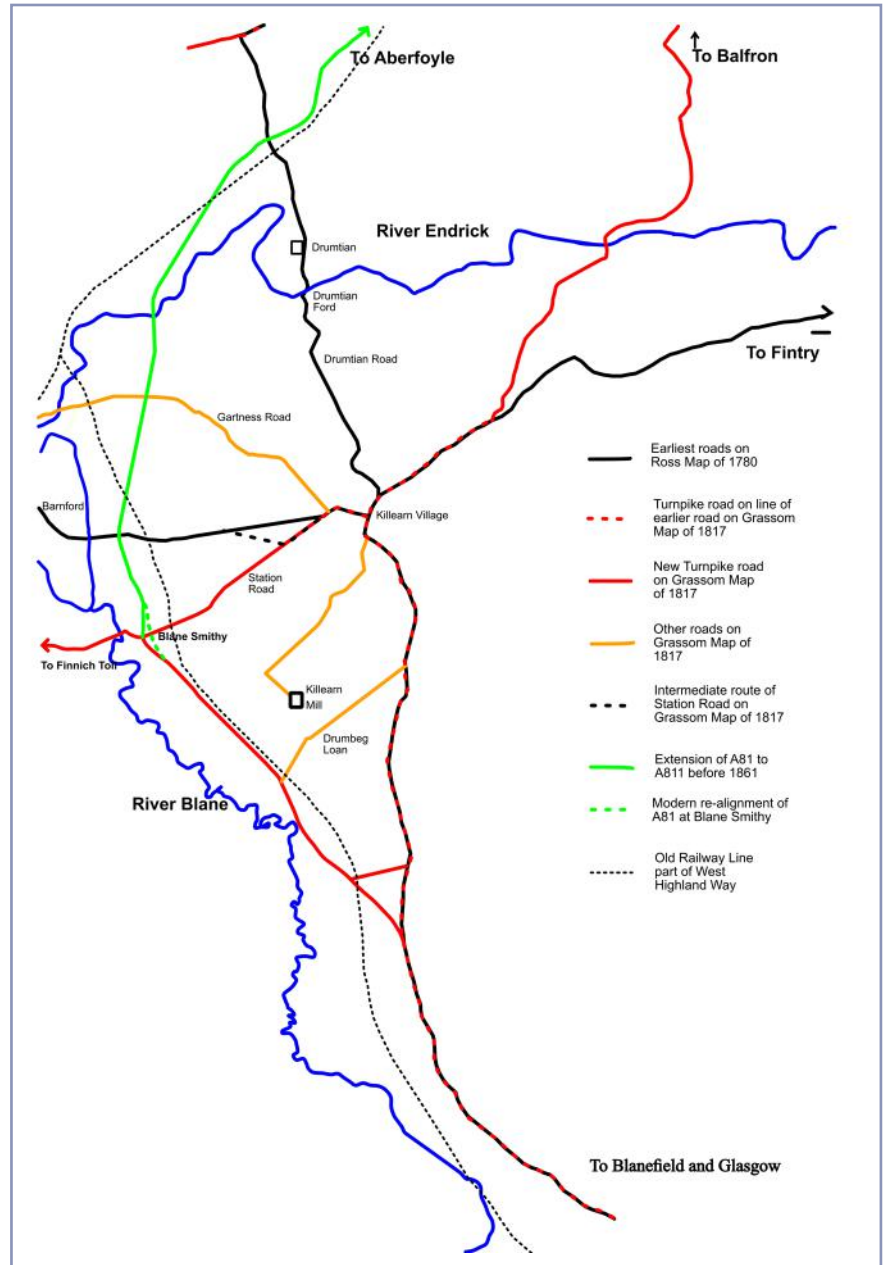
## From the Archives: Roads Around Killearn

We use the roads in and around Killearn daily and take them for granted, but in the past the connections to the village were very different.

Before the construction of the Turnpike Roads around 1790, the local roads were notoriously bad. The Ross Map of Stirlingshire of 1780, which is the earliest detailed map including Killearn we have been able to locate, gives a good indication of the pre-turnpike routes. For years this map was considered lost, but copies were found in Stirling's Smith Museum and the National Library of Scotland, from where a high resolution digital copy was obtained. This shows four roads meeting at a crossroads in the village.

Main Street/Glasgow Road is shown much as today running to Strathblane then on to 'Lenox Miln' and 'Killsyth'. A link from Strathblane to 'Mill Gay' went through the Mugdock estate. Two other roads from the village were the road to Fintry, apparently close to the present road line, and the road to Drumtian via the ford, probably on the present route. The final link started down the present line of Station Road around the Glebe then cut off across the open fields to the ford at Barnford and on to join, what is now, the A811 east of Drymen. The rather curious alignment of the farm of Spittal indicates the original line of this road. At this time there was no direct link to Balfroon.

The next detailed map we have is the 1817 Grassom map of Stirlingshire. By this time the local Turnpike roads had been constructed and Grassom conveniently shows these in colour to distinguish from other roads. This map has much more detailed road alignments which can be directly compared with the present day Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. The Turnpike, which is now the road through Balfroon to the A811, had been constructed together with the Field Bridge at Balfroon. The Turnpike, forming the present line of Station Road, had been completed to Blane Smithy then on to the A809 at Finnich Toll. At an intermediate stage the route of Station Road ran to the bus shelter near Napier Road then cut across the field to join the old route from Spittal



to Barnford. The remains of this phase are clearly seen as a line of trees and a raised bank in the field. The present route of the A81 through Strathblane to Glasgow was established as a Turnpike and the section from Dumgoyne to Blane Smithy, where the road terminated, was constructed. Gartness Road, Drumbeg Loan, Ballochruin Road and the link from the village to Killearn Mill via the 'Cow Field' appeared on this map for the first time.

The first OS map of the area was produced in 1861. This shows that the section of the A81 from Blane Smithy to Ballat and then on to Aberfoyle had now been constructed, cutting the direct link to Barnford. Other routes were little changed from the Grassom map showing it was quite accurate. On the 1918 OS map, the Blane Valley railway line, running through Blane Smithy to join the Forth and Clyde Junction Railway at Gartness Junction, had been added, but with no change to the local roads. In later years the line of the A81 at Blane Smithy was altered. Part of the old alignment can still be seen providing the access to the steading development at Croy Cunninghame.

## Killlearn Tennis Club News

Hopefully spring has now arrived after what seems to have been a long winter with endless dark nights. We can now look forward to much more tennis with the light evenings approaching. However, the courts remained busy over the winter months and it was great to see such activity at the Club.

As we mentioned in the last *Courier* issue, the club held its AGM in October. David Fulton has now retired as President, a position he held for many years (probably too many for David to remember). The committee and, I'm sure, members alike would join to thank David for his hard work and tireless efforts over those years. We wish David well and look forward to seeing him on court. We now have a number of new committee members on board.

The committee members are:

Gill Johnstone – President

Roni Gray – Club Secretary

Laura Hart – Treasurer

George Douglas – Welfare Officer

Phillip Pain – Grounds/ Maintenance

Patsy Hutchison

Gavin Hutchison

As a committee, we have great aspirations for the club and are excited and optimistic for the club's future.

We are holding a Fun Club Championship for members this year. It's the first to be held for quite some time. The competition includes men's doubles, ladies doubles, mixed doubles and ladies and gents singles. Entries close on 31 March, so you still have time to enter.



The draws for competition will be made during April, and the first rounds will commence in May. Trophies and medals will be awarded to winners. Thanks to Gavin, Phillip and George for organising.

We are also planning on holding some fun Open Days for members and non-members. Why not come along and try out some tennis? It's such great fun and a great opportunity to meet others from Killlearn and surrounding villages. You will be made very welcome.

Killlearn Horticultural Society are holding a plant sale on 21 May, and the Tennis Club will be providing teas/ coffees and delicious home baking (for a very modest sum). We hope to see you there.

All are very welcome at the club. The committee are always here to help and would love you to get in touch. If you are interested in membership, please have a look at our website ([www.killlearntennisclub.org.uk](http://www.killlearntennisclub.org.uk)) or find us on Facebook.

GILLIAN JOHNSTONE

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# The 10k is ON

Places for the 2022 Killearn 10k went on sale in the first week of December and sold out before Hogmanay. The race organisers, for our first full-scale event since 2019, were thrilled with the response. We honestly weren't sure if people would come back in such numbers after two years away, but the reaction has been off the charts. We are particularly delighted with the scale of support the race has received from runners based in Killearn.

We're now busy preparing to put on a race worthy of our wonderful village. Plans are in place to improve the 10k experience for runners and spectators alike.

The 10k, and the Killearn Mile which precedes it, could not be staged without the support of our brilliant volunteer marshals. We're hoping all our stalwarts will be back at their posts this year, and we'd love to hear from anyone else who would like to get involved. If you're interested, search for Killearn 10k on Facebook and drop us a message, or email us at [info@killearn10k.com](mailto:info@killearn10k.com).

We'd be equally lost without our sponsors, and we'd like to pass on our heartfelt thanks for the help we receive year on year from so many local businesses. They've stuck with us through thick and thin, even after the tough times of the last couple of years, and we are so grateful.

We have a delicious new main sponsor this year with Turnip the Beet catering, plus A Total Clean and West Homes have come on board, too, with fantastic support. We couldn't be happier to have them all. We'd also like

to thank S Mac Joinery Solutions and Strathendrick Decorating and Plastering for being with us – we're honoured.

For many, the Killearn 10k effectively starts in January, with training in the cold and dark. And one of our new initiatives this year is the founding of a training group, with UK Athletics chairman Ian Beattie to help people along. All welcome, no pressure, meet your own goals. Email [training@killearn10k.com](mailto:training@killearn10k.com) to find out more.

Once all the training and planning is done, we'll meet up in the park on Saturday, 4 June. The Mile will precede the 10k, which will start at 11am.

We just can't wait to be with you all again.

DAVID MCKAY





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## EAR WAX MICROSUCTION CLINIC

Quite a few of you may know me through the 'Foot Health Clinic' which I have had in the local villages of Killearn, Buchlyvie and Torrance for over 12 years.

From mid-February I shall be able to offer 'ear wax micro suction' at all the above clinics.

Many GP practices and the NHS no longer offer ear wax syringing, and a lot of people in the local area have to travel quite a distance to access the now more common practice of ear wax micro suction.

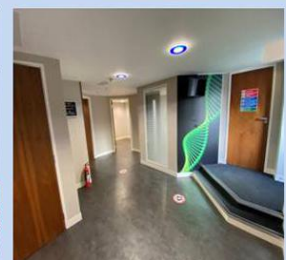
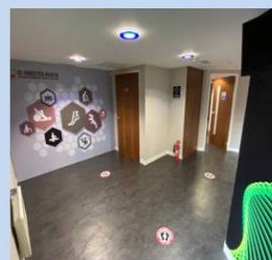
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## Curling Continues Despite Omicron

The first half of the 2021/22 season was almost successfully completed. With case numbers spiralling again in December, the Ladies v Gents match was postponed and the Ladies Christmas Bonspiel was played with much reduced numbers. We also struggled to get full teams during the autumn due to injury and non-Covid illness. Curling has started again after the Christmas break, but we are playing with restrictions on sweeping at present.

The Main Club Autumn League was won by Bob Glass's team of Sally Macfarlane, John O'Neill and various reserves. Although they finished tied on points with Rosemary Miller's team of Archie Banks, Viv Taylor and Andy McKinnell, Bob's team had won more ends.

The Ladies Section played a triple round robin Peat Trophy league which was won in the last round by Sally Macfarlane's team of Jane Weir, Annette Rogers and Deborah Macken. They scored a single point more than Viv Taylor's team of Kay Bidwell, Norma Thornton and Helen McKinnell.

The Ladies Christmas Bonspiel was contested by two teams only and won by the team of Anne Lochhead, Gill Smith, Viv Taylor and Norma Thornton. They played just 3 ends and then 2 more ends, attempting to draw nearest to Christmas puddings. The puddings were won by Sally Macfarlane and Katherine Kelsey. The best Christmas jumper competition was won by Jean Leitch.

The intended lunch at Gargunnoch Inn was cancelled due to the change in regulations, so celebrations were coffee and mini empire biscuits instead.

The Ladies Section have held their Pairs competition for the season. Some very one-sided matches resulted in Jane Weir and Annette Rogers winning all 6 ends to take the Helen Loudon Quaichs. Jean Leitch and Muriel Holroyd were second, winning 5 out of 6 ends.

The club has had some success in external fixtures. They have won the major Forth & Endrick Province League for the first time since 2010 and are through to the High Road final in the Province Knockout. They also almost won their area knockout semi-final.

Fiona Glass and Luisella Mosley of Strathendrick, along with Judy MacKenzie and Di Christie, were winners of the Emily Tait Trophy awarded by Stirling Ladies Branch.

Unfortunately, the club has not been able to hold any social events, but hopefully this will be possible by the spring.

You can find the various team members, scores, etc., and our programme of events in our website at [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).

The contacts for the club are Tony Flisch (860580) or Gill Smith (550726). New members would be welcomed by both the Main Club and the Ladies Section.



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# Rugby Round-Up

The Strathendrick teams have met with mixed fortunes in the first part of this season. The 1st XV is in a highly competitive league and, with a talented but young squad, have struggled against some of the bigger clubs and heavier packs. The 2nd XV (social) team have won some and lost some, but garnered quite a few league points from opposition 'no-shows'!

The Midi and Youth teams have had an outstanding year. Teams were fielded at every age group by Strathendrick/Balfron HS in the Barbarian Conference. All their fixtures were completed and, with aggregated results, the club finished mid table – a really creditable position. However in the Boy's National Schools Shield, the U18s won through to the quarter-finals; the U16s have made it – at the time of going to press – to the semi-finals, enjoying a thrilling win over Berwick in their quarter-final match. Strathendrick/Balfron HS are the only state school in Scotland to have two teams in the latter stages of both national competitions. Well done, boys!

Women's Touch Rugby is now established as a regular activity on Wednesday evenings – new recruits are always



welcome – and three Girls' Teams are now enjoying development games.

Having had a busy season – and enjoyed two trips to Murrayfield – the Strathendrick Minis are now looking forward to their Charity Tournament on Sunday, 24 April, when hundreds of young players and their supporters descend on Fintry for this annual jamboree. Do come down to join the fun.

For further information please visit [www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/).

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## Bridge by Zorro

### Solution to the problem on page 12

West's lead of ♣2 is likely to be a singleton and his vulnerable pre-empt indicates a Heart suit headed by the king and queen. As he has now shown four Spades, his shape must be 4-7-1-1, the inference being that East's shape is 0-2-5-6.

Armed with this information, Forquet set about a minor suit squeeze on East.

He first cashed the ♥A (crucially keeping dummy's ♥2) and played the ♠2. West won with his queen, and returned his ♦J. In dummy with the Ace, Forquet led the ♥J (high to keep East off lead) and discarded a Club. West won and put Forquet back in dummy with the ♠9.

Forquet continued with dummy's ♥2, throwing a Diamond and forcing West to win again. In losing these early tricks, he was employing a strategy known as 'rectifying the count'. This is crucial for a successful squeeze.

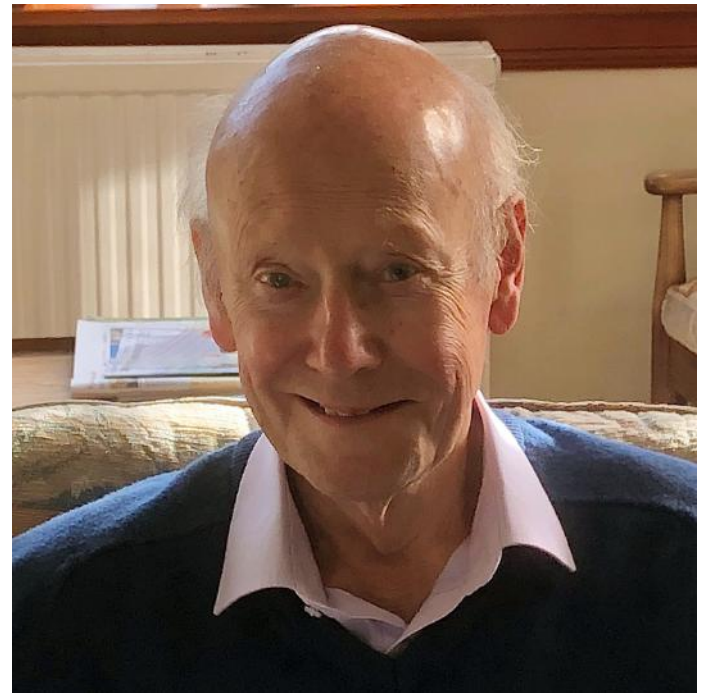
West returned a Heart, which Forquet ruffed and then drew West's last trump. With 10 tricks played, West held three Hearts, North was left with ♦K, 8 and ♣J, East was clutching ♦Q, 10 and ♣K, and Forquet held ♠K and a singleton in each of Diamonds and Clubs. So, Forquet played his last trump, dummy's Club was pitched, and East was squeezed. He must discard a Diamond or ♣K, so either declarer's Club wins or dummy's Diamonds are established.

Ironically, as the cards lie, the contract can be defeated – by an initial lead of West's other singleton.

The full hand is as follows:

	♠ 9 5 4		
	♥ J 5 2		
	♦ A K 8 6		
	♣ J 7 6		
	<b>North</b>		
♠ Q 8 7 6		<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♥ K 10 9 8 7 4 3			
♦ J			
♣ 2			
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ A K J 10 3 2		
	♥ A		
	♦ 7 3 2		
	♣ A 9 8		

With thanks to a reader for providing the hand and commentary on which this article is based.



Alan Young was born in Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire. He moved to Killearn in 1967 and always regarded the village as home.

He studied civil engineering at Edinburgh University, and started work designing bridges and tunnels for British Rail. He later moved on to design power stations in the UK, working for some time on Hunterston A, and later joining John Brown Engineering as Project Director, managing the construction of gas turbine power stations. His work took him to Japan, China and the Middle East. He later became commercial director for the Hydro Board before finally setting up his own management consultancy business, focusing on green energy to drive turbines using tidal energy.

In his spare time he enjoyed walking hill, climbing and sailing.

In his retirement, Alan joined the Killearn Abbeyfield committee where he took on the responsibility for, and earned the reputation for, setting up the best health and safety system in the organisation in Scotland.

He was a devoted family man, the beloved husband of Beatrice and the loving father of his three sons, Alan, Jonathan and Simon, and a much loved grandfather of Alex, Calum and Dan, and Mark and Emma. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

BP

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# Alexander John Bishop Loudon 1928 – 2021

Bishop Loudon, as he was known to all, was truly a Killearn man, born at Moss Cottage and living almost all his life in the area of Killearn.

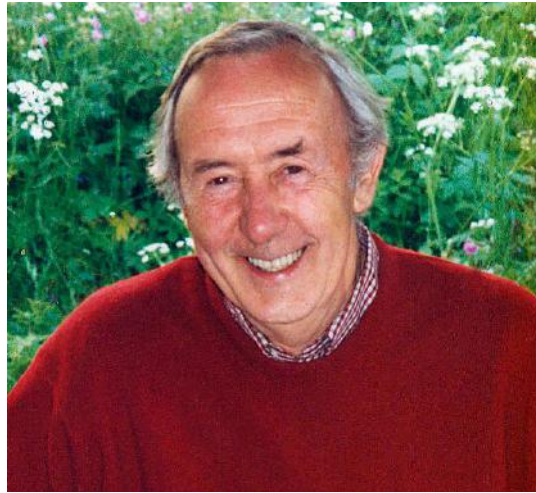
He was educated at Balfron High School and later graduated from Glasgow Vet School. After a year in practice in Dunfermline, he returned to Stirlingshire and joined Alex Chapman in the Kippen vet practice and later ran the Killearn branch of the practice, specialising in large animals.

An able sportsman he was a great sprinter and a good tennis player, and it was at the Tennis Club that he met Helen Cormack and became involved in the care of one of her injured horses. A romance developed between Bishop and Helen, and they were married in Killearn Kirk in June 1959. They began married life in Endrickhill, Station Road, and here their three sons made up their family.

In the late '60s, Bishop took over the running of Little Drumquharn farm after the death of his father and handed over the vet practice to Eric Brander. He then bought the Quinloch Farm, to which, after making improvements and alterations, the family moved in 1971.

In the years that followed, Bishop ran a successful farming business and established a pheasant shoot syndicate which still exists today. In the 1990s, he passed the farms to two of his sons – the Quinloch to Alex and Little Drumquharn to Douglas, though he remained on hand to give wise farming counsel. His son, John, followed a career in the police service in London, and Bishop and Helen would make regular visits south to see him, Juliet and their two grandchildren, Jack and Stuart.

In 1973, Bishop took over responsibility for the



rainfall gauge at Killearn Hospital and recorded the rainfall at the Quinloch for SEPA. In 2012, SEPA awarded him a plaque in recognition of his 39 years of service. He continued recording for the rest of his life and with 48 years of service must have been one of the longest serving contributors to SEPA.

He and Helen were active in the social life of the area, and the Quinloch was the venue for many celebrations and social occasions. They also enjoyed travelling, and

would often organise their travels around their interests in horses, food and wine, enjoying as well their pleasure in meeting new people.

In the village, Bishop and Helen were involved in a number of organisations. A keen gardener, Bishop became Chairman of Killearn Horticultural Society and the Flower Show from 1970 to 1981, and was a regular contributor. He was made a lifetime Honorary President in 1999.

Helen's sudden death in 2013 came as a terrible blow to the family but it was a mark of Bishop's strength of character and positive outlook that he got on with his life, continued to entertain at the Quinloch, to travel and to care for his garden in which he took much pride. He also continued his interest in bridge.

He lived a full and happy life, loving Killearn and the countryside around, and was fortunate to enjoy good health until his final short illness. He was a pillar of the Killearn community, loved and respected by his many friends, both here and through the wider world, and will be sadly missed, particularly by his family and by all who knew him.

BP



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## Alastair Garland 1940 – 2021

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Alastair Garland, one of a family of four children born to George and Elsie Garland, grew up in Uddingston. After attending Uddingston Primary, he was educated at Glasgow Academy, where he proved to be gifted both academically and in sport, particularly cricket, at which he was regarded as an excellent bowler, playing for his school and then for Glasgow Accies. On leaving school, he read history at St. Andrews University and continued his studies at Glasgow University, where he read law.

He began his law career in 1961 as an apprentice with West Anderson before joining Wright, Johnston and Orr, remaining loyal to that firm as it went through a series of changes over the years. He became a much respected partner and finally a consultant to the firm.

In 1963 Alastair moved to Killearn and when, in 1966, his father married Betty Cormack, he developed a close relationship with his stepfamily. It was while studying law that he met Maggie; they married in 1971 and set up home in Drumbeg Loan. Both were soon involved in village life; both enjoyed entertaining, and their home was a happy venue where they welcomed their many friends.

Their longed-for daughter, Kirsty, was born in 1977 and Alastair became a devoted father, telling her a bedtime story that he made up about two characters ‘Catriona’ and Kirsty’s dog ‘Spot’, which lasted for two years of nightly episodes. His pride in her, and in Harry and Sam, his two grandsons, was clear to see, and Kirsty’s death last year,



at the age of 43, was a tragic blow to the family.

Alastair was a keen player and follower of sport all his life – rugby in particular, but also tennis and curling, and in his later years developed an interest in bridge, playing regularly with friends in Killearn and as a member of the Allander and Kilmardinny Clubs. This provided him with stimulation and friendship and he relished the social contacts as well as the intellectual demands the game provided. He also had a deep interest in and a great knowledge of wine, coupled

with an abiding love for France, and for many years he continued his study and practice of French conversation.

The family household usually included a bearded collie and in the last ten years Alastair could frequently be seen walking their current pet around the village.

He served as an Elder of Killearn Kirk for many years and for 20 of these he organised the distribution of the Kirk newsletter. He had a deep faith and regularly attended services.

Alastair was a man of many qualities: warm, friendly, caring, and always interested in others. His thoughtfulness shone through. His face, in repose, showed a man who seemed constantly to be considering and reflecting. Never one to seek attention, Alastair, nevertheless, was a man whose sense of humour enlivened many a conversation and whose memory will live long in those who knew and loved him.

BP

## Dermot Frederick Sims 1940 – 2021

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Dermot was born and brought up in Northern Ireland, where his father was the bank manager in Bushmills, of whisky fame. After attending school at Coleraine Institute, he went on to study mechanical engineering at Queen’s University, Belfast – a fitting choice, as Dermot was always fascinated by anything mechanical, and had a life-long love of cars and motor bikes.

Dermot met his wife, Pauline, while at university, and in 1966 they started a new adventure with a move to California. In 1979, the family returned to Northern Ireland, settling in Greenisland, just outside Belfast, where they spent many happy years.

After Dermot retired, they moved to Killearn in 2004, to be closer to their son, David, and his family. Killearn was only meant to be a temporary stop, however, for a year or two, while they looked for a retirement home in France, but Dermot and Pauline loved the village so much they never left.



A quiet man, with a dry sense of humour that could sometimes take you by surprise, Dermot loved music and gardening, as well as anything petrol powered, and he always enjoyed getting out into his garden whenever the weather permitted. He was delighted when the garden won the Horticultural Society’s Best Spring Garden for several years running.

Pauline’s death in 2019 was a great blow to Dermot, after 53 years of marriage, but, as was typical of Dermot, he was determined to get on with life as best he could. Even after he suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2020, Dermot was resolute that he would stay at home and keep his independence.

Dermot is survived by his sons, David and Nicholas, and his grandchildren, Anna, Alexander and Isla; his daughters-in-law Gillian and Danae, and his brother, Brian, and sister-in-law, Hilary and family, and is very much missed.

GS



## Murray Bogie 1941 – 2021

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Murray was born in Glasgow, the only child of Richard and May Bogie. His father died before his birth, and he was brought up by this mother and grandmother. He was a gentle and intelligent boy who did well in school and was keen on the Boys' Brigade, where he learned new activities and made many friends.

At the age of 15 he met Moyra, who was to be the love of his life. Murray was quickly accepted into Moyra's family where he was soon treated as a big brother – a close relationship which lasted a lifetime.

When the time came to leave school, although more interested in mechanics, Murray's mother guided him towards a white-collar profession. He joined the British Linen Bank where he started as a cashier and worked his way up to Senior Bank Manager in the Bank of Scotland.

He and Moyra married in 1966, buying their first home in Kelvinside, where their first child, Alison, was born. After a few months, they moved to Killearn where Richard was born, completing their family. Murray was a devoted father, interesting himself in all his children's activities, even to the point of taking up Richard's chosen sport of snowboarding at the age of 60! He was very much a 'hands-on' Dad, willing and able to give all the encouragement and support they needed. His love for his



family was central to his life and later when grandchildren arrived, he took great joy in them as he watched Rebecca, Jacob and Joshua as they grew.

Murray's practical bent came to the fore when he completely renovated their home in Allan Road; his DIY included replacing the entire heating system and doing a loft conversion. His career may have been that of banking, but he could turn his hand with ease to any practical job, including fixing cars – his own or those of friends. Holidays with the family were especially happy times,

frequently spent in their caravan in Crail.

The death of Moyra on 2014 was a terrible shock to the family, but with his characteristic resilience, Murray faced the future without her with fortitude and courage. He got on with life as best he could, helped by the support of Alison and Richard. As the years passed and Murray's own health declined, again he just faced the situation and got on with it; he was not a man to feel sorry for himself. His death brought great sadness to his family, but with it came the knowledge of a happy life well led, and a recognition of the qualities he lived for and exemplified.

His family has been overwhelmed by the generosity of the many people who have donated a total of £878 to the Beatson Cancer Charity in his memory. BP

## Ena Bruce 1927 – 2021

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Ena was born into a family with a five-generation experience of the wine and spirits industry. Her father, as well as achieving enormous success in business, was also a highly able sportsman. From him, Ena inherited these talents.

She was educated at Harrogate Ladies College, followed by four

years at Leicester Teacher Training College, where she excelled in sport, notably cricket, being selected to play for Leicestershire.

In 1949 she met Russell, recently retired as a Scottish Rugby Internationalist, and the pair married the following year and moved to Killearn to live at Burnbrae.

An accomplished sportswoman, Ena achieved notable success in curling and golf. As a member of Buchanan Castle Golf Club, she was captain in 1954/55 and three times Lady Champion, in 1960, 1964 and 1966. She was also a proud member of the Dunbartonshire County team. She founded the Buchanan Castle Past Lady Captain's Golf and Lunch Day 50 years ago, an event she ran

for 25 years. Sadly, her playing days came to an end as a result of a back injury which plagued her for many years.

Among her other interests was her garden, of which she was justifiably proud. It was always so full of colour and bloom, an immaculate lawn and beautiful shrubs. It was a garden that she was pleased to open to the public and she deserved the many accolades it received.

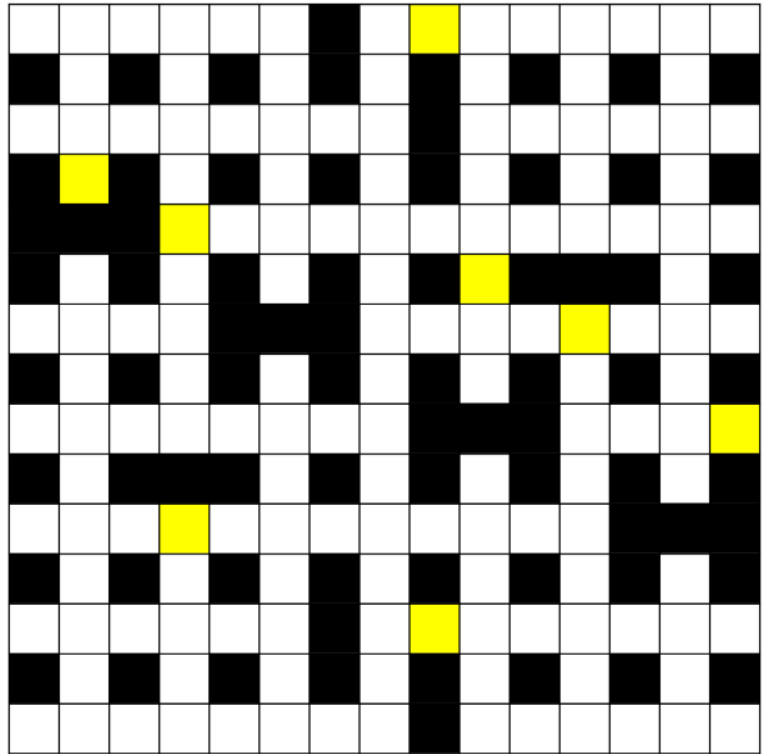
Burnbrae was a home full of warmth and a genuine welcome was always awaited. Ena had a wonderful sense of humour which endeared her to so many and it is a great testament to her nature that she formed so many long-lasting friendships over the years. TM/BP

# Prize Alphabetical Crossword set by Mike

Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would like to thank both the Ambassador Theatre Group and Co-operative Food for their generosity in providing the prizes for our competitions.

## Alphabetical Clues

- A Judges fools beginnings of silly English satires (8)
- B Places next to your divan moreover hold an old penny (8)
- C Angry and upset on hot deck without start of tea (6)
- D Motorist's club (6)
- E Cadet has use for trains (8)
- F Repeated lack of success then use flair (8)
- G Aerial rodent is a colourful hoarder (4,8)
- H Leader found in the address book (4)
- I Wins ideas but was lost within (6)
- J Short Asian gets in in charge of a shrub (8)
- K Weed that sounds as if it isn't growing in a lawn (9)
- L Fever hospital is home to an untidy zealot rat (9)
- M Space rocks come from remote site (10)
- N Unnecessary to have hypodermic with sharp head (8)
- O Empty area filled with form of oxygen (6)
- P Guitarist's plucker and the rest right inside a fruit (8)
- Q One of four inside a horse (4)
- R Putting right those embarrassed confused singers (10)
- S Top performers with show of rank flying in USA (5,3,7)  
Computer program is made of squidgy stuff (8)
- T Military vehicle will carry men or rip reactor out (5,7)
- U Extreme but mostly in evidence (6)
- V Nervy I am about picking fruit here (6)
- W Scrooge changes first to become more astute (5)
- X An arctic gull returns American Express trademark (4)
- Y Girl names Northern Envoy (6)
- Z Idiosyncratic US city going back from A to Z (4)



My brother-in-law also compiles crosswords, so I asked him to compile one for the *Courier* and he sent me this alphabetical. You have to solve the clues and then fit them in the grid. They will only go in one way! Slightly trickier, but I hope you find it fun to solve – I did.

Peewit

The letters in the coloured squares make up an anagram associated with the longer clue S (3,5). Solve the crossword and find the answer to the anagram. This is the answer.

Email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send it to the *Courier*. Instructions in the box below.

Lucky winner of our last crossword was David Pettigrew, Killearn.

Last crossword solution: Across: 7 gift box 8 cover up 12 ships 15 log 16 bless 20,9 mince pies 21,13,18,10,17 Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat 22 hock 24 kingdom 25 Ferrari Down: 1 Gigi 2 stashing 3 Dobies 4 Contacts 5 helium 6 bung 11 Guide team 12 sylph 14 nitre 16 bookshop 17 Findhorn 19 garage 20 musket 21 crib 22 card

## Children's Prize Wordsearch

Find 10 words in the word search grid that are **roads or streets in Killearn**.

Nine of the words are: *Branziert, Crosshead, Drumore, Endrick, Graham, Ibert, Kirkhouse, Lampson, Napier*.

Can you find the street which is in a new estate, write it down and post it or email it to the *Courier* for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op.

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

Instructions for sending it are given in the box below.

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry – it's easy! Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win. Email your solution(s) to [peewit@kfcf.co.uk](mailto:peewit@kfcf.co.uk), or drop it in the postbox outside the Village Hall. Remember to give your name, address and a contact phone number before **2 April 2022**.

L	T	M	C	C	E	L	W	B	M	I	K
M	E	S	Y	M	A	V	R	A	K	J	I
M	I	N	U	M	F	A	H	R	C	A	R
U	O	M	P	E	N	A	P	N	I	I	K
M	G	S	V	Z	R	I	B	E	R	T	H
D	O	R	I	G	C	O	P	I	D	K	O
N	S	E	N	K	E	B	M	W	N	E	U
S	R	F	Q	S	A	A	H	U	E	N	S
T	C	S	O	D	K	G	F	Y	R	N	E
D	A	E	H	S	S	O	R	C	T	D	H
L	R	R	O	G	H	Q	T	C	L	F	K
R	E	I	P	A	N	W	U	Q	T	O	N

We had no entries from children this time, please enter – it's easy and you could win the prize!

## Knock on Wood

As much as it is a time of fading frosts and growing greenery, spring is a season of sounds. Birdsong, mostly a stranger to our ears during winter, suddenly fills the air with chattering trills and warbling descants. The highlight (or lowlight if it wakes you earlier than you would like) is, of course, the dawn chorus, when all male songbirds clear their throats, take advantage of the stillness and belt out a tune.

But not all birds rely on melody to attract a mate. While most woodland species are busy singing to advertise their presence, woodpeckers can be heard adopting a rather different approach. Early morning, with less man-made noise for competition, the tell-tale 'drumming' of the Great Spotted Woodpecker travels for miles through the air. It is one of the most distinctive sounds of spring.

Great Spots, as we birders call them, make high-pitched vocalisations as well. But these are 'calls' rather than 'songs', and it is their drumming that is all about holding territory and attracting a mate. The sound itself is very brief—less than a second—and consists of a series of extremely rapid rat-a-tat-tat strikes of the bill on a tree trunk or branch.

Visually stunning, their pied plumage contrasts gratifyingly with deep red undertail feathers. Adult males also sport a bright red nape patch while juvenile birds are temporarily red on their crowns. Their bodies are sleek and streamlined, accentuated by long, pointed bills, ideal



not just for drumming, but also for excavating nest holes and exposing prey seized by a ridiculously long tongue.

Our other woodpecker, the Green Woodpecker, is much scarcer and more local in Scotland, although I am glad to say that we do have them near Killearn. They call much more than drum—the distinctive, laughing 'yaffle'.

Great Spots on the other hand have enjoyed something of a population boom in recent decades, probably in part related to the increased availability of garden bird food, especially peanuts and fats. While it's pleasing to see such beautiful birds close up in the garden, their success correlates with sharp declines in other species with which they compete for nest sites (such as starlings) or on which they predate, such as some small birds and wood-boring insect larvae. Nevertheless, it is a joy to see them from the kitchen window and hear their percussive preludes to warmer days.

MARTIN CULSHAW



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Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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Anyone wishing to contribute to the summer edition of the *Courier* is reminded that it will be distributed on 13 August 2022.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 24 June 2022.

Contact: Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 24 June.

Please send them to:

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Email: [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk)

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