



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 43

SPRING 2019

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Noticeboard

16 Mar	Killearn Kirk Guild Spring Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon.	17 Apr	Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary, 8pm.
17 Mar	St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle Concert. Allander Jazz, Dixieland and Traditional Jazz. 3pm–4pm.	18 Apr	Strathblane Church Maundy Thursday Service. 7.30pm. The Arts Society Stirling lecture. Brian Healy, 'Masters of the North: The Golden Age of Nordic Painting'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. All welcome.
19 Mar	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch workshop 10.30am–3.30pm. Kirk Hall. Talk at 2pm by Sheila Dalgleish, textile artist, 'North and South – wherever next?'. Visitors welcome. £3 half day; £4 full day. Killearn Kirk Guild AGM dinner with Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.	19 Apr	Killearn Kirk Good Friday Service. 7.30pm.
20 Mar	Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary, 8pm.	19 Apr – 22 Apr	Killearn Health Centre closed. Online prescription ordering service available throughout holidays at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . Call 111 for medical help.
21 Mar	The Arts Society Stirling and Forth Valley lecture by Nigel Bates, 'Tantrums and Tiaras: Backstage at Convent Garden'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. All welcome. www.theartsociety.org.uk	21 Apr	Killearn Kirk Easter Service. 10.30am.
21 Mar – 22 Mar	FADS performance of <i>Mrs G</i> by Mike Tibbetts and Stirling, Strathendrick and Strathkelvin Young Farmers' Club's performance of <i>Little Grimley presents Strictly Sex Factor on Ice</i> by David Tristram. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30pm. For ticket details visit www.fintrydrama.org.uk .	25 Apr	Drymen & District Local History Society Members' Night and AGM. A popular night featuring short talks by members of the society. The talks will be preceded by cheese and wine from 7.15pm–7.45pm and followed by the AGM. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door.
21 Mar – 9 Apr	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch annual exhibition. Drymen Library during regular library hours.	28 Apr	St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle Concert. Kentigern String Quartet play Ravel. 3pm–4pm.
23 Mar	Killearn Primary School Fundraising Group Swedish afternoon tea. Village Hall, 2pm–5pm. Classics at Kippen concert. Kippen Church, 7.30pm. Tickets and information at www.classicsatkippen.co.uk .	6 May	Killearn Health Centre closed.
24 Mar	Strathendrick Singers Easter Concert. Haydn's <i>The Creation</i> . Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets (£12 for adults; under-16s free) available at the door or from choir members.	15 May	Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary, 8pm.
26 Mar	Killearn Golden Years Club Annual Dinner. Kirk Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm.	16 May	The Arts Society Stirling lecture. Dr Sophie Oosterwijk, 'Peasant Pastimes: The Art of Peter Bruegel the Elder'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. All welcome.
28 Mar	Killearn Kirk messy play. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.15am for ages 0–5 years. Thereafter the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Drymen & District Local History Society talk by Ken Colville, 'The Kaiser's Pirate', the story of First World War legend Kapitan Count Felix Von Luckner and his Clyde-built sailing ship <i>Seeadler</i> , formerly <i>Pass of Balmaha</i> . Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. www.drymen-history.org.uk	18 May	Killearn Village Hall Scott Gibson Comedy Night, 7pm for 7.30pm. Details, Killearn Village Hall Facebook page.
29 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society <i>Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri</i> . Balforn High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.	19 May	St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle Concert. David Hamilton plays Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck. 3pm–4pm.
31 Mar	Killearn Village Hall 'Orcas, Otters and Armadillos' with Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery, 7.30pm. Admission £10, under 12s free. Tickets available from Three Sisters Bake, Hewitt and Aker or on the night.	1 June	Killearn Kirk refreshments during the Wee Mile and 10k event. Tea, coffee and cake from 10.30am, Kirk Hall. 7th Annual Killearn Beer Festival Old Mill, from 3pm. Entry fee of £5.50 includes KBF glass and tasting notes.
16 Apr	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch workshop. 10.30am–3.30pm. Kirk Hall. Talk at 2pm by Elspeth Bennie, local art blacksmith on blacksmith designs by contemporary artists including her own work. Visitors welcome, £3 half day, £4 full day.	2 June	Killearn Village Hall Jay Lafferty Comedy Night, 7pm for 7.30pm. Details on Killearn Village Hall Facebook page.
		5 June	Killearn Golden Years Club Annual outing to Pitlochry.
		8 June	Killearn Kirk Strawberry Tea as a celebration of the Queen's birthday. Kirk Halls, 11am–1pm. All welcome.
		19 June	Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary, 8pm.
		20 June	The Arts Society Stirling lecture. Gavin Plumley, 'The Magic of Prague: Czech Art and Culture'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. All welcome.
		23 June	Killearn Village Hall <i>The Bench</i> , by Keir McAllister, 7pm for 7.30pm. See Killearn Village Hall Facebook page for details.
		31 Aug	Killearn Horticultural Society Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries to be staged Fri., 7.30pm–9pm. or Sat., 7.30am–10am. For schedule and enquiries, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).

If you have any dates for the summer issue of the Noticeboard (end of August until mid-November), please contact Heather McArthur (heather.mcarthur@virgin.net; 07985 082 678)



Siobhan Wilson and Stuart Drummond were married on 19 October 2018 in St Francis of Assisi Church, Aberdeen, with celebrations afterwards held at The Marcliffe Hotel at Pitfodells. Siobhan grew up in Killearn and attended Balfour High School. Stuart grew up in Banchory and attended Banchory Academy. Stuart works for Kitchens International in Glasgow, while Siobhan is an educational psychologist with East Renfrewshire Council. The couple now live in Bothwell.

Diamond Wedding: Brierley – Cameron



Congratulations to Hugh and Elizabeth (Betty) Cameron on 60 years of happy marriage.

Hugh, a local Killearn lad met Betty from Liverpool in 1956 while they were on holiday in Remagen on the Rhine. They entered into a long-distance courtship, the romance kept alive by letter and trips to Liverpool, the train journey costing all of three guineas return. On 21 February 1959, they were married in Killearn Kirk by the Rev. H. MacLennan McLeod and then settled down to village life.

Welcome to the first issue of the *Courier* for 2019. I hope you like the front cover. Who could resist such a wonderful character?

Spring is the time of year when the sap starts rising, flowers start popping up through the earth, and the hedges and trees break into leaf. Winter has passed (we hope), and we look forward to the year ahead, to warmer days and the sunshine to come, perhaps spending time relaxing in the garden. Well, maybe it's not the time to be sitting out quite yet, so just sit inside and read your *Courier*.

You'll find articles from our usual contributors, along with other pieces which include information about forthcoming events in the Village Hall, an update on the Heritage Trail, a centre spread all about Killearn Community Council as well as items about our Church ministers, both old and brand new. There are pages giving gardening tips and telling us about scams, wine and sports. In fact, there is something there for everyone.

Is it OK for the *Courier* group to show its editorial bias by being particularly delighted to include the wedding photograph of Siobhan Wilson, who was our first *Courier* Cub all those years ago?

Many of our readers will have noticed the gradual increase in the population of Killearn, with single houses being built here and there, as well as larger areas such as Home Farm and the latest development known as Buchanan Views at Blaressan, where some of the homes are already occupied.

We extend a very warm welcome to all new residents and trust they will enjoy living in our – now their – village. It has a lot to offer, including all the opportunities to get involved in the life of Killearn. There are a host of organisations to join in the village catering for all kinds of hobbies, sport, charities and young people, and many are crying out for volunteers and helpers (the Cub article on page 8 is just one example). All it takes is a couple of hours a week of your time. What better way to get to know, and be known, in the your new community?

Enjoy this issue and have a lovely spring.

Ian

News in brief...

Local band Platform C again brought in the New Year in the Village Hall entertaining family and friends. The event raised £731 for Strathcarron Hospice.

Former Killearn resident Sally Beamish received the Award for Inspiration at the 2018 British Composer Awards. She is currently composer-in-residence with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, for whom she is writing two works.

The Malawi Group Jumble Sale netted a fantastic £1,720 at their February event, with more to come once some specialist items are sold. Thanks to everyone for their support on the evening before and on the day.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

I have been told that the turnout for the annual bonfire/firework display at the Glebe was down somewhat this year. I have visited this event over many years, not every year but most. This year the weather was not at all good for standing outside, so we reluctantly decided against it.

It is a pity that after spending so much money on refurbishing the Village Hall it cannot be used by villagers from which to view these events in comfort. Small children, the elderly, those less mobile or those who just want a comfortable viewpoint could make use of the Hall at this time and could then contribute to the monetary collection and, in turn, aid the village charities.

I understand that the commercial business in the Hall makes use of the facilities at this time to the exclusion of the villagers. This surely cannot be why the Village Hall was built and renovated, can it?

Mike Jackson

Response to Mike Jackson's letter above

Thank you for your thoughts, which are most welcome. Killearn Village Hall Operating Committee is very supportive of the Killearn Fireworks, and we would welcome ideas on how to enhance the experience for members of the local community as suggested. Far from excluding villagers, the Village Hall is available for bookings from local residents and if anyone in the community wanted to talk to us about booking the hall for the afternoon/evening around the Fireworks event to organise a complementary fundraising activity, then we would very much welcome that approach.

Cheers all

Fiona Rennie, Chair, KVHOC

Dear Editor

Christmas Eve has taken on a bit of a routine, and we like to begin the festivities with a 'walk and talk'. A short stroll around the village reminding ourselves that we don't need to go to work the following day!

This year we were delighted to be able to add in a '[insert rude word here] and stitch' to our annual routine, thanks to the 'Make your own bauble hat ornament' article in the winter issue of the *Courier*.

We each crafted our own bauble and took our 'walk and talk' down to the woodland cemetery to spend time with our much missed friend, Sandra Burt. The baubles were a lovely festive adornment to her tree



Thank you for the inspiration.
Friends of Mrs B.

Dear Sir

The building of new houses at Blaressan saw some disruption to village traffic which was not helped by a tarmac wedge being laid on the site side of Station Road. For some reason best known to the planners, it gave right of way to traffic travelling down the road, stopping traffic travelling up. Clearly, no thought was given the cars so stopped trying to move uphill in icy or snowy conditions. However, sense seems to have visited the positioning (and purpose) of this, and it has been removed – albeit the sign is still there!

However, such sense seems to be absent as regards the current proposal to paint double yellow lines along Balfron Road and around the Station Road junction almost to the nursery, an area which is well used for parking both by villagers and visitors alike. Was any thought given to displacement of car parking, not to mention loading and unloading, for the businesses located there?

The implications of such an ill-conceived proposal can already be seen. The presence of orange cones along that stretch of roadway push vehicle parking further down Station Road, while others use the Health Centre and chemist car parks. This has resulted in people attending either venue being somewhat frustrated at being unable to park, particularly those who may be infirm and have difficulty if walking any distance. Spaces in the Village Hall and Church Hall car parks are already at a premium.

It seems to me that efforts are being made to discourage the use of cars in this part of the village which is, in fact, the heart of Killearn. This is not a good situation, and hopefully good sense will prevail.

All this does makes me wonder what the planners will do when the works associated with the Black Bull start and, indeed, finish.

Yours

Fair Scunnered of Station Road

Dear Sir

I would like to thank you for the theatre tickets I received for winning the crossword competition in the summer edition of the *Courier*.

The play, *Comedy about a Bank Robbery*, performed by the talented and versatile Mischievous Theatre Company, was very entertaining.

Thank you once again.
Sheila Ptolomey

Cover Image

The charming photo of a puffin featured on cover of this issue was taken by Fergus Gill and is copyright of Maramedia. It is taken from the programme *Wild Shetland – Scotland's Viking Frontier*. See opposite page for details of an evening with the film-makers Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope.

More Success for Maramedia

Wildlife film-makers Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope, who live in Killearn, are enjoying great acclaim for their recent productions. Their documentary, *Wild Shetland – Scotland's Viking Frontier*, attracted a large audience to BBC One Scotland in January and was again narrated by Ewan McGregor, like their hugely popular earlier series *Wild Scotland* and *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge*.

The cast of characters in *Wild Shetland* included enchanting scenes of an otter family, spectacular shots of diving gannets, storm petrels and remarkable footage of orca (killer whales) hunting seals. And loveable puffins on Fair Isle – featured on the cover of this edition of the *Courier* – put in an appearance, too.

Jackie and Nigel's company, Maramedia, now has a 10-part series, *Born to be Wild*, currently showing on the new BBC Scotland TV channel,

So Killearn Village Hall is delighted to be hosting 'Orcas, Otters and Armadillos', a presentation by Nigel and Jackie of some of the highlights of their recent projects

They will be showing some of the best clips of their work, and telling the tales behind sequences like the incredible orca hunt in *Wild Shetland*, the Norwegian reindeer hunt featured in *Wild Way of the Vikings* and the first professional images ever captured of the Brazilian giant armadillo – a subject that actually eluded narrator David Attenborough!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, 31 March at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Tickets are available from Three Sisters Bake, Hewitt and Aker or at the door on the night. Admission is £10; children under 12 free.

Christmas Post Donation for CHAS



The inaugural Christmas Post was a great success last year. Glenda Asquith and Kathleen Wright, who spearheaded the organisation, would like to thank everyone who helped deliver the 2,121 cards around the village. A total of £838.18 was raised for CHAS (which averages out to about 39p a card) – an excellent start for the first year which made everyone's efforts worthwhile.

After the donation was sent in, the organisers received a letter from CHAS, thanking them for the donation and explaining what it would be put towards:

'Thanks to your gift we can be a listening ear, a friend, a medical professional or a Christmas Elf this December. ...please know that your special gift is enabling CHAS to prepare the turkey and trimmings, wrap the presents and bring families together in their own homes or in our hospices. Often Christmas Day can become "just another day" for our dedicated super mums, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters. This year, we will do whatever it takes to change that – everyone deserves family time this Christmas.'

Well done, Killearn!

Orcas, Otters and Armadillos

Sunday, 31 March

7.30pm

Killearn

Village Hall

Admission £10;
under 12s free

Tickets
available
from Three
Sisters Bake,
Hewitt and Aker
or on the night



Strathendrick Embroiderers' Guild News

The April meeting, the final one for this session, will be held on Tuesday, 16 April, from 10.30am with a workshop in the morning and a speaker in the afternoon.

'Look at Me' (pictured), was embroidered by long-term member of Strathendrick Branch, Bette Turnbull Scott, for a project on birds shown in our 40th anniversary exhibition in June 2017. Bette explained, 'A bird – which bird should I embroider? I looked through many books to find only one that said "Me!" After reducing the choice to three, I decided a cockerel would give me lots of fun, and red colour would be no problem. I did indeed have lots of laughs during the stitching. Padded cotton was used for the breast and trousers, and a variety of stitches and beads.'

Visitors to the exhibition made their own views clear, too: when they were asked to vote for their favourite piece, 'Look at Me!' was a firm favourite, becoming joint winner of the Friendship Quaich in 2018. This is awarded each year following our Drymen Library show to the person whose exhibit the public likes best.

The 2019 Annual Exhibition in Drymen Library opens on Thursday, 21 March, and runs until Tuesday, 9 April. Please do drop into the library to enjoy the display of members' work which showcases many different techniques. The exhibition also features the work of our talented Young People's Group that meets regularly throughout the session. As usual, you will also be encouraged to vote for your favourite piece.



If the Drymen exhibition inspires you and you would like more information about the Branch, please contact us (strathendrickchair@gmail.com).

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from September to April in Killearn Kirk Hall.

Killearn Beer Festival 2019

Saturday, 1 June, 3pm

The Killearn Beer Festival is happy to announce our 8th annual event, taking place at the **Old Mill, Balfron Rd, Killearn on Saturday, 1 June at 3pm**. Once again this is a community and family-focused event with a relaxed atmosphere where you can enjoy great beers, ciders, food and music. In addition to local breweries such as **Fallen, Late Night Hype and Merchant City Brewing Co.**, this year we are looking forward to sampling some interesting beers from Scotland's east coast.

An entry fee of £5.50 will get you a KBF glass and tasting notes. A full list of the beers and tasting notes will be posted on the Killearn Beer Fest website and Facebook page.

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 on the day.

£5.50 Entry

www.killearnbeerfest.org

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

STRATHENDRICK BRANCH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

IN

DRYMEN LIBRARY

21ST MARCH UNTIL 9TH APRIL

MONDAY AND FRIDAY
9.30am - 1pm
2pm - 5pm

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
9.30am - 1pm
2pm - 7.30pm

SATURDAY
9.30am - 1pm

Abbeyfield News

The residents of Abbeyfield along with the Friends of Abbeyfield have continued to enjoy various social events organised by the Friends.

The usual fortnightly nursery school visits have been taking place, as have the fortnightly news reviews when the residents and some of the Friends discuss current affairs and express their opinions.

In October, Michael Pell gave an illustrated talk on the Austin 7 car which he owns. This was greatly enjoyed by the residents. Also in October there was an outing to the House of Darroch for lunch. These lunch outings are always enjoyed by the residents, and this occasion was certainly no exception.

from the Strathendrick Singers accompanied by Heather Smith on the piano – a musical afternoon enjoyed by all. Some residents attended the traditional Christmas panto at Fintry, with the Friends providing transport and company. The panto, too, was greatly enjoyed.

The highlight in December is always the Christmas lunch, which once again was a great success. The Friends’ ‘chefs’ – Phillip Pain and Ray Davidson-Carr – cooked the traditional Christmas meal and the ladies of the Friends’ committee provided a superb selection of desserts. All residents, many Friends, Barbara the Housekeeper



Peter Reilly, Co-op Manager (right) presenting the cheque to Maureen Royston and Phillip Pain

In November, the Friends of Abbeyfield were delighted to be presented with a cheque from the Killearn Co-op for the sum of £2,373. This is a large contribution to the committee’s funds and will assist considerably with future events. Our thanks go to the Co-op.

We should also like to thank the organisers of the Killearn Beer Festival who gave a donation of £250 to the Friends of Abbeyfield. All these donations are greatly appreciated.

In December, the residents were entertained by Joyce Begg, Judith Neill and Cathy Davidson-Carr

and other staff members, together with several guests were invited and a happy time was had by all!

It was with much regret that the Friends’ committee accepted the resignation of Michael Pell, who has served Abbeyfield for the last 22 years. Michael has given his time tirelessly and voluntarily over these years, and his contribution has been immense. He will be sorely missed. Phillip Pain will continue as chairman of the committee of the Friends of Abbeyfield. The committee will be holding a retirement lunch for Michael – more of that later!

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Killearn Cubs Hit the Slopes

Killearn Cubs and Scouts are one of three community groups you can choose to support through the Killearn Co-op – so what are Cubs and Scouts all about?

Scouting is open to both girls and boys, with different sections catering for children from age 5 right up to young adults. There has been a Scouting group of one sort or another in Killearn for a number of years, but it is only in the last year or so that both Cubs (for kids aged 8 to 11) and Scouts (for youngsters between 11 and 14) have both been running. The numbers of children have increased significantly over the last year or so to about 30, with a healthy proportion of these being girls.

We meet on Wednesday evenings in the school hall, with Cubs meeting early evening and Scouts later on. We have a small but enthusiastic band of leaders and helpers – and are always open for more!

Cubs and Scouts learn through working towards various badges, particularly in the winter months. However, our main focus is to get kids into the outdoors as much as we can. We all know that this generation of children aren't outside as much as perhaps we were as children – sometimes for good reasons such as increased traffic on the roads – but also perhaps due to the lure of electronic games. So we try to have as much fun as possible outside, and give kids the chance to take part in as many different outdoor sports and activities as we can.

We previously received a small amount of funding to let all the kids try skiing at the Bearsden ski centre. It was a huge hit. Many had never skied before and might not otherwise have had the chance. It is so that we can offer



this kind of new experience that we are currently one of three local causes which shoppers in Killearn Co-op can support. Please do consider supporting Cubs and Scouts if you are a Co-op member.

Lastly, we know that there are children who would love to join Beavers (for kids aged 5 to 7). We need a few parents or adults to volunteer to get such a section going. We know from experience that once a section is up and running (with some help in organising it), other parents will come forward. If you think that you might like to volunteer, please let us know – we promise to help!

Contact Frances MacKenzie, leader (07811 270559; fmackenzie10@icloud.com)

Calling All Young People (and the young at heart)

Are you interested in learning new skills?
In volunteering? In adding to your CV?

The Killearn Heritage Trail project has development opportunities in research techniques (local history), archaeology, graphics, website design and build.

Killearn Heritage Trail

For further details, please email heritage@kcfc.co.uk or text Nick (07860 700928).

new skills

graphics

research techniques

learning

website design

volunteering

archaeology

local history

CV development

local history

What would a heritage trail look like?



Balfour Road showing the Post Office next to what is now the vets and the Toll House – and the White Horse Inn on the site of the current Health Centre car park. Photo courtesy of the Hugh McArthur postcard collection.

In the last issue of the *Courier*, we introduced the idea of a heritage trail to provide both residents and visitors with the history of the village.

If you were planning a walk around the village where would you go? Are there any sites in the village you would like to know more about?

To help prompt some answers to these questions, we make some suggestions below, and the Killearn Heritage Trail group would love to receive any comments you may have, most easily at heritage@kfcf.co.uk.

A starting point could be the Health Centre car park, the site of the White Horse pub, demolished in the 1940s. Across the road is the late 18th-century Toll House, its porch jutting out towards the road to help the keeper collect the tolls. The sign on the building details the tolls charged in 1841.

Crossing Station Road (the road to the former Killearn Station at the bottom of the hill), we come to the Village Hall and the Kirk, but why were two church buildings built next to each other within 55 years (and what has the answer to do with Ballikinrain Castle and turkey red dye works in the Vale of Leven)?

Then move on to the Buchanan Monument, built in honour of Killearn's most famous son, George Buchanan, who was renowned across Europe as a scholar and poet and who became tutor to

the young James VI. From here walk past the former Black Bull hotel and the small houses on the Square, some of the oldest buildings in the village, to the Old Kirk and its graveyard. The church building dates from 1734, but a church is thought to have existed here since the 13th century. The oldest legible gravestones date from the 17th century.

Next walk down to the playpark, turning left at the massive oak tree, taking the path through what was once called the Turnip Field (this and other village names will be explained) down to the school, and then turn right and walk towards Beech Drive.

By the Abbeyfield, look out over the Cow Field. In the 18th century, we would have been looking down on The Place, the most significant house in the village, once surrounded by landscaped gardens. Very little remains, beyond the Ladies Linn, in the Glen, and some tree planting.

Further along Beech Drive is the entrance to the Glen, which you can divert into (but note that the walking is quite rough). There are many signs here of human activity over a number of centuries and the Killearn Heritage Trail project hopes to find out more about the remains of a possible 16th-century house identified in a recent survey.

Back on Beech Drive, take the path across the bottom of the school

playing fields and on to Well Green, then up Main Street to the War Memorial, and return to the start. On the way you will pass many traditional early 19th-century houses, each with their own history – shops, bank, blacksmiths, joiners, school and summer retreats for Glasgow residents.

At Well Green you could also cross the road and walk a little way along Ibert Road. On the left you can look back at the village – the boundary between the field and the gardens of the houses of Main Street has remained unchanged since the village was laid out in the mid 18th century. To the right you can look up the hill to the stone-built Auchenibert House designed (but not completed) by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

And we still haven't mentioned the changing social fabric of the village, never mind its connections with John Napier (who invented logarithms in the 17th century), Rob Roy, James Bridie (playwright and co-founder of the Citizen's Theatre), the Burrell Collection, Glasgow's water supply, and even a Jamaican plantation owner from the days of slavery.

Killearn is a village with a big history, and it will be good to share it more widely.

CHRISTOPHER RICHES

Fancy a Fancy-Dress Party?

It was the last week of the summer term at Balfron High School and everyone was in the mood for a farewell party. Fifth- and sixth-year leavers were saying farewell to the school, as were various members of staff who were retiring or moving on to work in other parts of the country. We were also saying goodbye to Marianne, the very attractive young French assistant who during that year had attempted to improve standards of spoken French and was now going home, as was the young German teacher. These two assistants had decided to organise a party and to invite pupils and members of staff. They handed out beautifully crafted invitations headed 'Un Bal Masque'. The party was to be held in the school hall at 7pm.

Rosalind McGowan (Music) and I (English) were really pleased to have been invited. We decided to go, but were not at all sure what we should wear. We discussed the way to translate 'Bal Masque' and were reasonably confident that it was a sort of fancy-dress party. So, what should we 'go as'? I had just moved into a house which had formerly been a bed-and-breakfast emporium and had inherited a large bed-and-breakfast sign fixed to a metal pole. Problem solved. I would go as a landlady. Rosalind decided to wear a sheet on which she had pinned a number of empty gin and whisky bottles. Round her neck she would hang a large sign inscribed 'Departed Spirits'. How we laughed at the idea! Possibly one of us would win a prize.

On the evening of the party we met in the staffroom to put the finishing touches to our fancy dress. I wore a pair of thick stockings, an apron and a ginger wig. Rosalind swayed round the staffroom clanking her bottles. This was going to be great fun! Just after 7pm, wanting to make a dramatic entrance, we made our way down the corridor towards the hall. We could hear waves of conversation and laughter. My bed-and-breakfast sign was so heavy that I had difficulty in keeping it aloft and every now and again it would hit one of the overhead light fittings.

The moment arrived. Pushing open the swing doors we swept inside. There was a silence. Then a voice said, 'Who the *** is that?' Around the hall, leaning elegantly against the platform or perched on chairs were groups of glamorous young people. They all wore black velvet masks or carried them at eye level attached to sparkling holders. There was music. Romance was undoubtedly in the air. The young guests stared at us in disbelief. With one accord my accomplice and I backed out through the swing doors and fled, clinking and clanking to the staffroom where we collapsed onto the sofa, shrieking with laughter.

How well we could have used those 'departed spirits' at that moment!

CHRISTINE BOWIE

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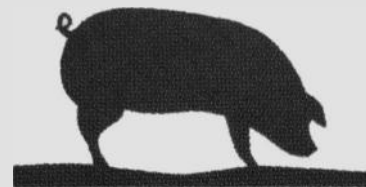
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The Weather Channel

After the very severe snowfalls earlier in the year, who could have forecast the warm and sunny summer we all experienced in 2018?

Most folk look for weather forecasts on their TV, mobile phone, computer or newspaper. The BBC, for example, publishes a comprehensive five-day forecast each day for individual cities, towns and villages. Where do these service providers get the forecast, and how do they gather the data needed? In most cases in the UK, the Met Office is the main supplier of this information and, although its headquarters is in Exeter, it has more than 200 automatic weather stations across the UK sending in continuous data.

In order to supply predictions, the Met Office collects observations, assimilates them, uses numerical models and feeds data to supercomputers. Each year around 500,000 observations around the world are collected from high in the atmosphere (36,000km above the earth) to under the ocean (taken from up to 2,000m depth). Observations include temperature, pressure, wind speed and direction, and humidity among numerous others. Current main sources of observations include satellites, weather balloons and aircraft.

There are many different types of weather satellites, all orbiting at different heights above the earth and collecting weather observations which can be collated to provide a more accurate forecast. Geostationary satellites, for instance, are in an orbit which keeps them over the same place on the earth. The illustration on the right gives an artist's impression of the geostationary American weather satellite GOES-16 with its major instruments labelled. This satellite is operated by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide meteorological data over the Americas. Similar satellites give coverage over most of the globe. Search 'Sat24' to watch what the European satellite is seeing in almost real time.

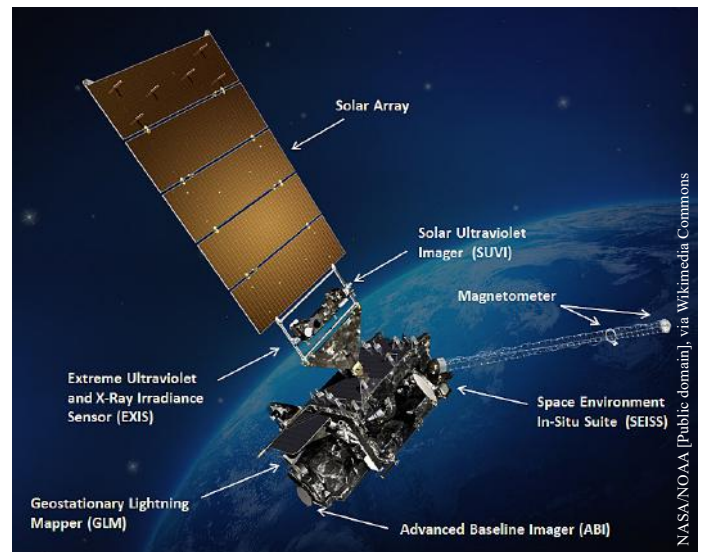
Even with all this data there are still gaps in the information required to make accurate forecasts, so data assimilation is used. Basically a best estimate of the current

state of the atmosphere, this combines recent observations with a previous weather forecast for similar conditions in order to come up with 'a best estimate' of the current atmospheric conditions. This is followed up with 'ensemble forecasts' where uncertainties in predicting future weather patterns are examined and the risks of particular weather events then estimated. This phase is particularly important, and provides yellow warnings for flooding, for example.

Numerical modelling plays an important part in forecasting, and the Met Office makes extensive use of what they call a Unified Model (UM). This mathematical model is configured for seasonal, decadal and centennial climate predictions. The UM uses a latitude–longitude coordinate system that provides a large number of points across the surface of the earth. These points are about 10km apart in the north–south direction, but can be as little as 10m apart east–west because of the convergence of the meridians. Manipulating this amount of data would not be possible without the use of supercomputers.

As many of us have observed, local forecasts are not always perfect, but much progress has been made by meteorologists in the last 10 years. In what is a very complex atmosphere, they generally do an excellent job.

TOM RENFREW



NASA/NOAA [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Yearly Summary for Killearn (2018)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Temp	11.5	12.4	11.3	19.9	25.7	31.2	27.3	21.9	19.6	17.8	13.7	11.2
Lowest Temp	-6.6	-5.8	-5.3	-1.9	0.6	6.4	7.5	4.9	2.7	-2.9	0.9	-4.8
Mean Temp	3.2	2.7	3.1	7.5	12.2	14.5	16.5	13.7	11	8.6	7.0	4.8
Days Below Freezing	10	14	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7
Highest Wind Gust	30	24	28	23	30	47	26	16	29	27	24	26
Monthly Rain	184.4	70.7	90.8	88.2	27.4	45.4	59.6	68.4	43.2	105.0	149.6	99.0
Most Rain in 24 hrs	33.4	17.9	13.4	19	6.2	9	18.4	11	15	3.4	18.6	18.8
Days without Rain	6	11	10	12	6	15	19	9	4	11	6	6
Cumulative Rainfall	184.4	255.1	345.9	434.1	461.5	506.9	566.5	634.9	678.1	783.1	932.7	1031.7

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

Autumnal leaves affected my weather centre's rain gauge therefore the rainfall readings for November and December are from the weather centre at Buchanan Castle Estate



The Club is well into the winter programme of meetings which take place at Ross Priory. We have enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers this year, ranging from member Mike Rawling's talk on the future of supercars to Chairman Laurence Grainger's account, assisted by Doug Ashworth, of the 1955 Mille Miglia and finally Nigel Kelly's experiences with Land Rovers over many years.

April is a busy month, with the AGM on 16 April preceded by a short run. Sunday, 21 April is Drive-It-Day – a national event where car club members up and down the country dust the cobwebs off their treasured classics after their winter hibernation and take to the road. Conceived to highlight the classic car movement, the event provides an opportunity for the public to see these gems of automotive history and underlines the importance of celebrating our heritage. The SCCC is no exception, with Doug Ashworth and Bob Sharp organising an event to include as many members' cars as possible.

The committee is currently working on the spring and summer programme, which includes a two-day run in May to the Speyside area with club members being based at the Muckrach Hotel near Grantown-on-Spey (pictured right).

There will also be summer runs exploring interesting new back roads in the area. These are especially fun when the sun shines and those with convertibles can enjoy some open air motoring. The runs usually conclude with a lunch or tea, where a great deal of motoring banter takes place.

It is hoped that there will be another CarBQ in July. This can best be described as a 'motor gymkhana', with many manoeuvring tests to challenge the skills of drivers. It's a firm favourite.

The Club continues to publish its own e-magazine, *Overdrive*, which appears three times a year. This spring a special supplement was compiled by one of our members, Bob Sharp, outlining the part that Coventry played within the motor industry. It is an invaluable potted history ranging from the very early days of sewing machine and bicycle manufacturing which developed into motor cars, to the industry's subsequent demise, with the loss of many well-known brands.

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who would like to join us. You do not need a classic car – just an interest in the subject. For more details about membership and our future programme, please contact our Secretary Robin Johnston at SCCC.info001@gmail.com.



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Music in the Neighbourhood

The West of Scotland is internationally renowned for its music. No more than 20 miles from Killearn, we can find world-class opera, orchestral concerts, chamber music, jazz, folk music, rock concerts, and much else. Locally, too, there are numerous opportunities to enjoy music of the highest quality. Here are just three examples.

Classics at Kippen

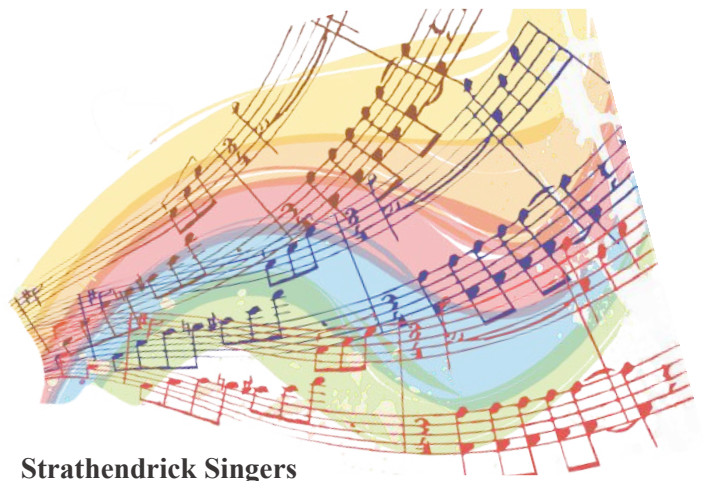
The brainchild of Kathleen McKellar Ferguson, singing teacher at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Classics at Kippen was born in 2012. Its purpose is threefold: to provide much needed performing experience for young music students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, to raise money for charity, and to provide high-class concert performances that make for lovely community events for the people of Kippen and further afield. To date, Classics at Kippen has raised over £20,000 for charities that include Crossroads, 'Raucous Rossini', Erskine, and Kippen parish church.

The next Classics at Kippen concert will take place in Kippen parish church on Saturday, 23 March, at 7.30pm. This will take the form of a duet recital by two of Kathleen's former students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Soprano Hannah Sandison and mezzo-soprano Annabella Ellis have both sung at Glyndebourne and are forging very promising and successful international singing careers. The concert will include light classics and some 'fun stuff'! Tickets can be obtained via www.classicsatkippen.co.uk, where you can also be added to the mailing list. Alternatively, you can contact Kathleen directly (kmckellarferguson.com).

Concerts at St Mary's, Aberfoyle

Concerts take place at 3pm in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle on the third Sunday of each month, excluding June and December. St. Mary's is fortunate to have a very fine organ, so they try to organise at least three organ concerts each year. The programme as a whole aims to be diverse in genre and style, mixing classical chamber music with, for example, the Bal Musette of Parisian cafe culture or the Edinburgh Renaissance Band, who brought a wide selection of instruments dating back to mediaeval times. The concert series is supported by Enterprise Music Scotland, and some of the organ concerts by the Scottish Churches' Trust.

The concerts last one hour, and tea and cake are offered in the church room afterwards, where the audience has a chance to chat to the performers. The essence of the concerts is informal, and St Mary's ask their performers to introduce each piece. Entry is by voluntary contribution in order to promote wider access. The next concert is on Sunday, 17 March, when the Allander Jazz Band will entertain with Dixieland and traditional jazz. Search online for 'St. Mary's Church Aberfoyle' to view the programme for 2019.



Strathendrick Singers

Strathendrick Singers is an amateur choir of around 50 vocalists, drawing its membership from the wider local area. The choir was founded in 1977, and some of the original members still take part. The repertoire over the years has been extremely varied, although largely classical and often sacred. Past highlights include Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and *HMS Pinafore*, Bach's *Magnificat*, *Mass in B Minor* and *St. Matthew's Passion*. The choir has also performed Haydn's *The Creation* and Jenkins' *The Armed Man*.

The choir rehearses on Mondays from 7.30pm in Balfron Church between September and April. New members are always welcome. While the choir performs in many venues, Killearn residents are always treated to two concerts a year in the Kirk: one concert in the spring and the other just before Christmas. The 2019 spring concert will be at 7pm on Sunday, 24 March.

For more information about the concerts and joining the choir, visit www.strathendricksingers.org.uk. CH



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Spring in the Garden

Spring is upon us once more, and therefore so is the gardening season. With the onset of spring the seemingly never-ending list of jobs begins. If you are an organised gardener, you may have an idea of any changes, additions and other improvements you want to make to your garden. Well, enough thinking about it— get out there and make the most of the ideal conditions for planting, digging and general tidying up.

Plant up containers and baskets, but be wary of using frost tender plants until the end of May at the earliest. A heated greenhouse really does help to bring on your pots and baskets until the threat of frost has passed, giving your plants a head start and making your displays better earlier in the season. Be prepared to water your containers in dry weather (if we have another spring like last year).

Tools at the ready! Clean and sharp are not just essential to your tools' longevity, but also to plant health when tools are used to trim or prune. There is a bit of skill in getting your tools sharp, and if you don't want to try, get someone to do them for you. Cleaning can be done with methylated spirits or any other alcohol-based cleaner.

Ceanothus, lavatera, buddleias and hardy fuchsias can be cut back quite hard in March. In contrast, shrubs such as mop-head and lace-cap hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) should be pruned more lightly at this time. The idea is to remove two or three of the oldest or thickest branches completely and to remove all the old flower heads. The pruning cut to remove the old flower head should be made just above a pair of healthy buds. Roses, dogwoods (*Cornus spp.*) and willows (*Salix spp.*) should also be pruned in March. New growth has much better colour, so prune dogwoods and willows hard to promote lots of new shoots for a better display next winter.

Lawns can be cut when they start to grow. Start by keeping the cutting

height high and gradually reduce this to the required height in about April. Lawn scarifying (moss raking) can be done in April, as can applying a moss killer and/or lawn fertiliser towards the end of the month.

In late March to April, plant first early varieties of seed potatoes as well as second early and salad varieties, but leave planting maincrop varieties until late April or very early May. Make sure to earth them up when the growth gets to about 10cm above ground, leaving the very top shoot just visible. Other vegetables, like onion sets, shallots, broad beans and peas can be planted/sown in late March or early April. Tomatoes, runner beans and French beans should be sown in a greenhouse in March unless they have been sown earlier in a heated greenhouse. Late April to early May is when hardy annuals should be sown directly in the ground where they are to grow. In April, house plants can start to be fed with a houseplant fertiliser – just be sure they get sufficient light and be careful not to over water.

There is much to do in our gardens right now, but the most important thing is to enjoy it. After all, that is why we have gardens. It doesn't matter if they are very small or dedicated to edible plants. It's all about getting out there and enjoying what plants have to offer us.

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Colourful Killearn Update

Sadly, by the time you read this, the colourful palette of crocuses and the startling white of snowdrops will be distant memories. Indeed, as I am writing in mid January, they are both already flowering in sheltered spots, and even early daffodils are showing a spot of yellow on flower buds, weeks and weeks earlier than last year. I hope they all manage to survive intact when the inevitable full impact of winter strikes!

Colourful Killearn is always planning ahead for the next season. Tête-à-tête daffodils in the containers around the village will have been supplemented around the end of February with violas and pansies to add to the display; these, in turn, will be replaced in early June with summer bedding plants. And there's another year gone by!



We mustn't forget our wildflowers. Patches at the sports pavilion and village hall require some maintenance, and plans must be laid to develop new areas. We will have a presence at the Sustainable Living event at the Village Hall in April, by which time we hope to have wildflower 'seed bombs' for sale.

Meanwhile, children at Killearn Primary are 'growing their own' and looking for advice on fast-maturing catch crops. Tricky to fit harvesting around the summer holidays!

Onwards and upwards... Like to get involved? Contact Mike Gray (mike@kfcf.co.uk; 550962).





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Parish Perspective

Having recently moved into Killearn from a larger urban location, I have been thinking about community quite a lot. This has been intensified by the whole Brexit debate that is still rumbling on. (Don't panic! I have no intention of making any political comment on this, there is enough of that floating around at the moment.)

The root of the word community is 'common', and we can see it as a group of people with something in common and living interdependent lives. No matter which side you take on the arguments, my concern is that we may lose the sense of what we have in common and move to a 'them and us' polarisation. Perhaps we need to see more clearly those things we have in common with others, the thing we share rather than divide one from another.

The Kirk in the village is here for everyone – all ages, backgrounds and experiences, and as I am getting to meet and know people, I am learning that the Kirk is as diverse as the village. Young and older, sit side by side; those whose families have been here for generations and those who haven't been here long at all.

As a parish church we are here for the whole parish, not just the membership, and we are looking for ways to develop and strengthen our Kirk and community connection. We seek to support and care for one another and indeed extend that out beyond the Kirk to the parish.

I think we end up with the kind of community we create. If we want to see a warm, supportive, kind and

caring village, then that is how we have to live with those around us. Not highlighting our differences, but celebrating our similarities. The way we treat others says a lot about who we are. So, if you haven't been to the Kirk before, or for a long time, why not come along and pay us a visit, you will be made most welcome.

As yet, we have no idea how things will pan out over the coming months or even years, but one thing is clear, this community will still be here. We will still be sharing a life in common with those around us; perhaps we should celebrate that, rather than taking it for granted.

My wife and I are very grateful for the open and generous welcome we have received, not just in the Kirk, but in the village as we meet new people. It has made that stressful thing of moving home and changing job much easier, so thank you.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know more and more people, so if you see me in the street, do stop and have a chat.

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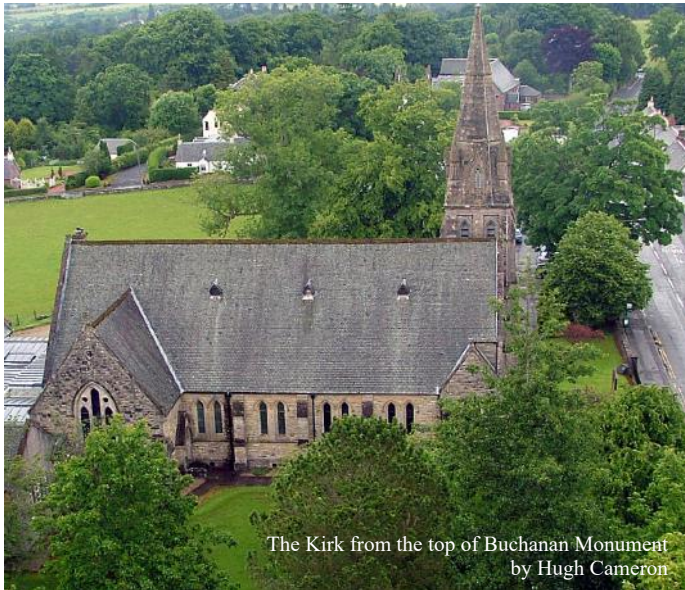
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Ministry and the Church in Killearn



Killearn Kirk was built and completed in 1882 as a memorial to Ella Orr-Ewing, her father having offered to build the church and John Blackburn of Killearn Estate giving the land. The kirk has a trowel with an inscription used when the first stone was placed. The old church was closed, and it was agreed that it would be used for community use (village hall). The pharmacy/flats building was the Free Church from 1845 until 1931, when it became the church hall until 2002.

The book *Strathendrick and its Inhabitants* makes mention of a church in Killearn in the early 13th century. The minister would be appointed by the heritors (land owners) of the village and it wasn't until much later that the congregations could choose their minister.

Killearn formed a Kirk Session in 1694. The Kirk Session, together with the heritors, ran the parish. They would deal with many areas of everyday life including church non-attendance, infidelity and illegitimacy. They would make payments to individuals and receive income from others. Records relate to poor relief, the local school, hospital and alms houses. In 1845, parochial boards took over responsibility for the poor rate which ended the Kirk Session's influence in local matters, and in 1929, local councils took over the other responsibilities.

In 1931, Rev. Hector MacLennan McLeod first preached in Killearn on the amalgamation of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church in Killearn. He contributed information to the Third Statistical Account of Scotland (1962) for the County of Stirling on Killearn parish and remained in Killearn for 31 years.

The next incumbent, Rev. J.B. Skelly, had a large congregation. At this time requests were made to have a seat in the church and there was difficulty in allocating seats. During this period a Session House was added to the church to enable the Kirk Session to meet. About 80 members of the congregation took part in a television broadcast (1964). Playgroup and toddlers started meeting in the church halls.

Rev. Stuart McWilliam followed in 1972, and was recognised as an outstanding preacher both at home and abroad. During this time woodworm was found in the pews and had to be dealt with. New cushions were made for the pews, as were five new cushions for the communion chairs which are still in use today. During the period, members were no longer allocated seats.

Rev. Robert Symington came in 1982, during which time the membership of the church rose, against the general trend of the national church. The first female members of the Kirk Session were ordained. Rev. Symington recognised different needs in the village, one being that the men were requiring to meet socially, and so the Probus Club was initiated. On the centenary year of the church, various activities were arranged for the community.

In 1993, Rev. Philip Malloch joined us and encouraged us to bring technical innovation into the church. With the old organ failing, a new electric organ was installed, along with new sound and vision facilities. During Philip's incumbency a new church hall was built. Philip continued his ministry in Killearn until his retirement in 2009.

Rev. Lee Messeder came to Killearn in 2010 and was known for his pastoral care. Still thinking of the future of the Kirk, alterations were made to the front of the church (chancel area) to enable access for those with additional needs to participate in the service.

Most recently, Rev. Stuart Sharp was inducted as minister in Killearn in October 2018. Like all ministers, he brings his own style of leadership and we look forward to 'walking' with him in the next chapter of Killearn Kirk.

Living in an ever-changing world, we should embrace ways of working that will suit everyone. I have realised during my research that nothing stands still, and that change happens according to the needs of that time.

This overview would not be complete without mentioning Rev. David P. Munro, who moved to Killearn on his retirement. He preached many times over the years in Killearn, twice taking on the role of locum minister during vacancy. David was a kind and faithful servant and friend who saw his work for the Lord as a lifetime commitment. Although he retired as a parish minister, nearly 25 years ago, he never stopped working and was well known in many churches. It was with sadness that we learned of his passing on Monday, 21 January, when he achieved his objective: to work for the Lord to the very end. David will be remembered by many in the village as a caring friend, a very special preacher and an inspiration to us all.

CAROLE YOUNG
SESSION CLERK, KILLEARN KIRK

Killlearn Health Centre News



Staff News – Dr Andrew Haslett left us in February 2019 to continue his training. He will return in 2020 to complete his training schedule. Dr Aodhan Glynn continues his training and will be with us until August.

Travel Vaccinations – summer is nearly upon us. We offer a full travel vaccination service at the surgery. Please contact Christine Montgomery, our Practice Nurse, with any questions you may have regarding travel.

Easter and May Holidays – please note we will be closed on Friday, 19 April and Monday, 22 April, as well as Monday, 6 May. Please make sure you order prescriptions to cover this period. Prescriptions can be ordered 24/7 at www.killlearnhealthcentre.com. If you require assistance during this time, please call 111.

Prescriptions – your local pharmacy may be able to order your repeat prescriptions on your behalf, meaning your dispensed prescription items will be available for collection at the pharmacy. Please ask your pharmacy for more information.

Out of Hours Access – If you require access to medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 contact number has changed to 111.

Online Services – you can now book appointments online at www.killlearnhealthcentre.com. We have incorporated a new prescription ordering system with this. When you register for appointment booking, you will automatically have access to this new service. We will continue to run our original online prescription service in tandem with the new service. We do encourage you to register for the new service(s).

Bridge by Zorro

Killlearn Bridge Club has re-started its classes for new players and improvers on a Thursday evening. If you would like to join the classes, or come to the club nights, please contact Roger Sparkes (440448), Doug Ashworth (550074) or Eileen Lindsay (770686), or use the contact link on our website www.bridgewebs.com/killlearn.

This is another hand taken from the Charity Challenge Cup in 1978. In our classes we encourage Declarer, after the initial lead, to look at the assets available and try to count either potential winners and/or losers, and to make a plan for the play. The plan can then be executed, rather than deciding one trick at a time which card to play. But what happens if things don't go to plan? Here Declarer and the defence go head to head!

Hopefully most pairs will manage to bid to 4♠ with South as Declarer without much difficulty. An interesting fight can develop between Declarer and the defence. West would normally lead ♠K taken by South's Ace.

Now what? What's your plan as Declarer or as a defender? Whose shoes will you try? Maybe try covering the two hands you wouldn't normally see. Later on, we'll see some alternatives as the play develops.

Dealer: West Love All

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

The solution is on page 44.

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Friends and Strangers

We've got new street lamps at our end of the village! Having waited for some time, we are now basking in a cool, wide light. Such is the spread of the illumination that we may not even have to invest in a security light to replace the one that died some time ago, not long after a family of swallows built their nest behind it. And although no one is going to accuse the council crews of unseemly haste – they started in September – they were always polite and considerate to those of us who had to wind our way round trucks, barriers and bollards, and on one occasion a burst water main. So it's all good news down our way.

The one bright light we can't do much about in the village, or anywhere else, is a low winter sun, which was possibly one cause of the collision at the bank corner in which yours truly was involved. Driver Number One, yours truly, came up Main Street and slowed down for the corner at the bank building. Driver Number Two, coming the other way past the war memorial, assumed she was still on the main road and carried on over to the Killearn Hotel/Black Bull. A collision ensued in which Driver Number One's car had its engine stove in and was written off.

Physically, both drivers were fine, but in that respect we were lucky. Things could have been very much worse, which makes one wonder if anything can be done to highlight the dangers at that corner. The possibility of No Entry signs at the junction has been raised before while the Bull was still operational. The suggestion was that traffic could go round by the Square and approach the Bull from the other direction. However, the point was made that buses taking customers to the hotel might find the corners too tight. Now that the poor old Bull is

in a state of decline, would it be sensible to try the No Entry signs? Granted, it might be inconvenient for Jim and Sheila and the others who live down the lane, but mightn't it be worth a try?

The other thing that might make a difference is clearer chevrons. The ones outside the Old Manse are fairly obvious and bright. The ones on the hedge outside the bank, however, are dingy and easy to miss, and the road to the Bull is very seductive.

As far as yours truly is concerned, one good thing to emerge from the incident was the kindness of friends, neighbours and strangers. People stopped to pick up pieces, of which there were millions, and also directed the traffic round the corner. Thanks also to the unknown gentleman from the Branziert who pushed both cars into a safe place off the main road. Such kindness is hugely appreciated. After that, offers of help came rushing in. Did we need a lift to pick up a hire car? Or a new car? And throughout the whole episode, Ian from the garage offered the kind of help and advice that was simply invaluable.

One does wonder if the same thing would happen in the city. Perhaps it would. Strangers can come to one's aid in all sorts of circumstances, witness the chap who assisted an elderly man make an exit from his overturned Land Rover and then found out it was the Duke of Edinburgh. That was on an anonymous A road. But one can't help feeling that villages do engender a sort of mutual support system. There's a kind of local benevolence that shines, like the new street lamps – understated, but there, and all encompassing.

JOYCE BEGG

Strathendrick Local Committee of Cancer Research UK regret that the decision has been taken to disband. During its 25 years, the committee has raised over £300,000 thanks to the very generous support from all the local communities.



Recently some committee members have retired for a variety of reasons, and the three remaining members had hoped to encourage other people to join them. That recruitment drive has been unsuccessful.

This means that the committee's house-to-house collection as well as the annual Ladies' Lunch will not take place.

The good news is that the Buchlyvie Band Night will go ahead, and is scheduled for 4 May.

A huge 'thank you' to all committee members, past and present, and to all house-to-house collectors and to everyone who has donated.

Of course, we would encourage you to continue to donate and hold fundraising events, despite the absence of a local committee. Visit www.cancerresearchuk.org or phone 08701 602040 to continue to support research into cancer.

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A Link from Afar

We have heard from Sophie and Andrew Young of Boquhan about one of the *Courier's* links across the miles. The Youngs have kept contact with the Lyon family in Australia over many years. Andrew and Kenneth were friends from their earliest days in Killearn, a friendship maintained by letters and phone calls, and by the Youngs, who sent the *Killearn Courier* to Kenneth.

Kenneth Shields Lyon, the middle son of George and Ena Lyon, was born in 1936. His father was the chairman of the football team in 1946 when the team played in the Stirling Amateur League and his mother was well known and popular in the village. On leaving Balfour High School Kenneth trained as a design engineer, did his National Service in the RAF in Singapore, and in 1962 married Betty Graham. They moved to Annan, emigrating to Australia in 1966, where they and their two sons enjoyed a happy life. In due course, the family increased to six grandchildren and two great grandchildren,

The sad news that Kenneth had died on 3 September reminded us of a letter we published from him expressing appreciation for the gift of the Killearn book and a copy of the *Courier* sent by the Youngs. It was this letter that won for the *Courier* the Award for the Strangest Destination in the Stirling Council Community Newspaper Awards in September 2009. We thank Sophie and Andrew Young for bringing this link to our attention and reviving memories of the Lyon family.

Worth Considering a Vintage?

As with all agricultural products, the start of the growing year is critical, with an unexpected frost able to ruin a harvest before it has even begun, especially in the more marginal vineyards in certain parts of Europe.

Warm and forgiving, 2017 was a good year, and as a result the wines will be instantly approachable and easy to drink. They are worth looking out for, as many of the northern hemisphere wines get to us about this time.

We don't look much at vintage in wine consumption anymore – most of what we buy is a year or two old at most and drunk the day it is bought.

For a very small percentage of wines, however, it is still a very important factor on the success of the vintage. For the classic regions of Bordeaux and Burgundy it has a huge impact, and I thought it might be interesting to look at a few of the best over the last decade. In exceptional years the prices some of the top end wines command would happily send most of us on holiday for a week or, in extreme cases, buy us a new car.

Bordeaux is all about the red wines, and it has had only two outstanding vintages: 2010 and 2015. While we will not see much of the most expensive wines, a good claret or Saint-Émilion from either of these harvests is well worth pulling the cork on.

In Burgundy, both red and white wines are produced at exceptional quality levels. As a contrast with our red Bordeaux, the white wine vintages of this region are very much worth enjoying and include the well-balanced 2017, the promising 2014 and the hard to find 2012.

It's not often we buy wine based on vintage, nor is it something we really need to care about. However, if you were looking for something to go with an Easter Sunday roast lamb or some beautiful spring chicken, then these vintages would add something a little special to your table.

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Rich Chocolate Tart with honey, crème fraiche and Drambuie oranges



Ingredients

For the pastry

65g unsalted butter, room temperature
65g icing sugar
1 egg, beaten
20ml double cream
165g plain flour

For the filling

650g dark chocolate (55% cocoa)
4 eggs
200ml double cream
160ml evaporated milk

Method

First make the pastry. Cream the butter and icing sugar together in a bowl until smooth and light. Slowly work in the beaten egg and mix together, then add the cream. Once combined gently fold in the flour bit by bit and mix until you have a dough-like paste. Wrap in cling film and set aside to rest in fridge for 30 minutes.

Roll out the pastry thinly and line a 10in (25cm) tart case. Pop this into the fridge for 20 minutes before blind baking at 180°C for 15 minutes.

Then make the filling. Break the chocolate into small pieces. Put the chocolate into a glass bowl and set over a pan of simmering water to melt. Whisk the eggs together in a large bowl. Pour the cream and evaporated milk into a saucepan and warm slightly. Pour this onto the eggs and whisk together. Strain the milk and egg mixture over the chocolate and mix well.

Pour this into the blind-baked tart case and bake for 16 minutes at 170°C. Then turn the oven off and leave the tart to sit in the cooling oven for 25 minutes, until the tart has started to set. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely (about 1½ hours).

This tart is best served at room temperature with a dollop of crème fraiche and honey along with orange segments doused with Drambuie.

Enjoy!

TRISTAN CAMPBELL, TRUFFLE EVENTS HEAD CHEF



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The Nursery worked hard to make crafts for the Christmas fair, such as jelly and jam, and Christmas tree crafts. They also painted Percy the Park Keeper and his friends on wooden discs and stones, and learned sewing skills to create handmade crafts. On top of all this they have been receiving Kodaly music lessons and have been practising rhyming through music and stories.

P1 were very busy organising their Harvest assembly. They organised for there to be artwork from all the classes. They also sang lots of songs. As well as that, they have been learning shapes and they are also learning how to add in maths.

In PE, P2 have been working very hard on their fitness with help from our PE teacher Miss McKie. P2/3 were really busy learning about Diwali. They made Diwali door hangers by taking their pencil for 'a walk' around the page.

P3 have been studying Remembrance Day. They have researched stories about their ancestors from World War I. They shared these stories with their class and some stories were used in their wonderful assembly about Remembrance Day.

P4 have done an assembly on the weather and it was fantastic! They included French weather and the water cycle. They have also been having rugby tasters. They have just got Sumdog, which is a maths game on a device that you play online.

Scams of the Issue

Recently, two scams in particular have become popular with thieves who would like to part you from your hard-earned cash. One relates to a phone call querying your payments for your TV licence. They claim to need your banking details in order to sort out a problem with the Direct Debit.

Making honest folk panic about money 'owed' is a typical ploy. Don't be fooled, and don't waste your time talking to them – hang up. To find out more, search 'TV Licensing scams'.

The other scam doing the rounds is a phone call indicating that a wrong payment has gone into your savings account and asking you to make a return payment from your account to correct matters. Your bank will never contact you in this way. If you receive a phone call like this, just hang up. If it's a dodgy email, don't click any link. Delete it.

It's always a good idea to let the authorities know you have been approached by a scammer. TV Licensing has an online contact form for the purpose, as well as contact phone numbers. Your bank will, too. Tell them if someone has been using their good business name to scam you.

Contact Trading Standards Stirling on 01786 233620 or the Action Fraud line 0300 12302040. They do want to know. Let's put these scammers out of business.

P5 have competed in an athletics competition at Balfron High School. They were practising a lot of different events that include running, jumping and throwing. They came fifth – well done!

P6 have just received Sumdog accounts and they are enjoying playing it at home and in school. In PE they are training for their athletics competition. In addition, they have been learning the ukulele.

P7 have performed in a play about World War I. They have been working with the P7s from Balfron and Strathblane primaries to create two performances. It was about what life was like in World War I in our three villages (Strathblane, Killlearn and Balfron). They all really enjoyed taking part. They raised over £1,100 from just the two performances for Help for Heroes. They also went to watch Balfron High School's production of *My Fair Lady*, they really enjoyed it.

The P7 Rotapeeps have been organising a project to make a kitchen garden and built raised beds beside the outdoor classroom. They asked every class to help with moving the soil and gravel into the wheelbarrows over the course of three days. Every class will soon be planting all sorts of herbs and vegetables. They have also invested in a giant kitchen trolley and equipment for classes to cook and bake.

THE PRESS GANG

Calling all Killlearn Primary Former Pupils

As inspiration for our current pupils, could we ask you for a brief written update on your current job together with 'now and then' photos?

We are planning to display these in school during our 'Developing the Young Workforce' week.

Please send updates and photos to
killearnps@stirling.gov.uk.

We look forward to
hearing from you.

The Community Council is here to help and to provide support. We want to work with local residents to understand their views on activities and plans within the village, and similarly to help Stirling Council communicate their plans to local residents.

The present Killlearn Community Council was formed in November 2018 and is intended to run for a period of five years. Given the size of the community, the Council has seven members (the minimum required in our area to form a council) and we would hope to co-opt a further two members plus a youth representative by April 2019. In particular, we require someone to act as Roads Convenor, always a hot topic in Killlearn, to help liaise with Stirling Council on identifying priority areas for work, etc. Find out more on the following pages.



Jim Ptolomey, Chairperson



L-r: Elizabeth Jones, Susie Henderson, Janet Duncan, Christine Bauwens, Fiona Rennie, Jim Ptolomey, Hilary McGregor, Andrew Donaldson

Who's Who on the Community Council

Who?	Position?	How long resident?	Duration as member
Jim Ptolomey	Chairperson & Planning	44 years	5 years
Fiona Rennie	Secretary & Vice-Chairperson	41 years (2 spells)	2 years
Elizabeth Jones	Treasurer	26 years	2 years
Andrew Donaldson	Website	21 years	5 years
Hilary McGregor	Neighbourhood Care Team & Community Reference Group Social/Health Care	44 years	5 years
Janet Duncan	No Specific Remit	47 years	21 years
Susie Henderson	No Specific Remit	28 years (2 spells)	Newly Appointed

Killlearn Community Council (continued)

Our Meetings

Our main method of doing business is our monthly meeting held on the third Wednesday of the month in Killlearn Primary School at 8pm and occasionally in the Village Hall. Dates and times are also published in the *Courier* Noticeboard (see page 2).

Meetings are open to the public. Members of the public can comment on agenda items and can raise issues of their own. Each meeting is also attended by one of our three Stirling Council councillors for the local Forth and Endrick Ward (Graham Lambie, Rob Davies and Alistair Berrill) and the police, if circumstances permit.

Apart from our local meeting, members of Community Council also attend other area meetings and forums to ensure we are kept informed on all issues.

How We Work

The Community Council is able to express the views of the community to Stirling Council in order to help advise with their plans. However, it is not empowered to make decisions regarding roads, planning or any local authority area.

We give our time and what expertise, experience and perspective we can offer in order to try and help the Killlearn community.

We would welcome more help. If anyone would be willing to join us and help us with our work, please get in touch or feel free to discuss it with us. The broader the makeup of the Council, the more representative we can be.

Areas of Responsibility

Community councils are voluntary organisations and were introduced through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The main areas of responsibility of any community council are outlined in the handbook as:

- Running the Community Council effectively, ensuring its work is fair and transparent, and within legal guidelines.
- Engaging and discovering community views – finding out what is important to everyone in the area and their opinions on issues and activities which affect them.
- Expressing those views by representing the community at meetings and events, commenting on planning and licensing applications, and communicating with the Local Authority and other public bodies.

Communication & Public Engagement

We would like to improve the ways in which we engage with the public. We are grateful to a trusty and reliable ‘hard core’ of regulars at our meetings, but everyone is welcome. We want to make sure that information we receive and pass on is truly representative of the community, and also to ensure that we are aware of issues and activities arising.

Our main methods of making information available to the community are the village noticeboard and our website.

The noticeboard, beside the bus stop/new Outdoor Classroom on Main Street, primarily displays the agenda for the next meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting.

Our website also makes these available, along with news items, the monthly police, planning and roads reports, earlier minutes and much else.

We maintain an email mailing list for regular updates and important or urgent announcements. To be included, please sign up via our website.

We also have a Facebook page. Please ‘follow’ us for the latest updates.

What Lies Ahead?

That’s really up to you. We are updating and maintaining the local resilience plan, looking at how we can support local village activities such as the fireworks and the children’s book festival. And we never really know what might come up at our monthly meetings.

We would welcome any ideas, questions or suggestions about how to broaden our appeal.

How to Keep in Touch or Contact Us

We thank you for your past involvement and look forward to your continued attendance and support in future.

You can keep in touch or contact us by:

- emailing contactus@killearncc.org.uk
- coming along to our monthly meetings
- visiting our website at www.killearncc.org.uk
- signing up for our mailing list via the ‘Contact’ button on our website
- following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KillearnCC

Fibre Broadband Update

By the time you read this update, the fifth fibre cabinet in Killearn should have gone live in February. Located about halfway down Drumbeg Loan, it is expected to serve premises in the Branziert and maybe also Main Street, but at the time of writing, it's not possible to check.

In addition, quite a lot of work has been going on in Killearn and the surrounding area to fit overhead fibre cabling and lay ducts along the side of the road and pavements.

This work is required in order to provide a fibre-based service to more remote premises or to those that are on long lines back to the exchange (known as Exchange Only or EO lines). The fibre service in this case is called FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) and should provide a future-proof connection, although a cost premium may apply to get the fastest possible speeds.

In the interim, I must remind folk about the improved mobile 4G signal that several residents outside the village are now using very satisfactorily. If you have reception, bearing in mind that an outside aerial will improve a poor signal, then this is worth consideration.

The Better Broadband Subsidy scheme continues for individual premises where a satellite option may be more appropriate.

Meanwhile, a volunteer team in Gartness has been set up to investigate how they can get an improved service, and the Stockiemuir team have very nearly completed their own service.

The Broadband Delivery Group, disbanded last summer, is now being restarted as the Rural Broadband Forum. My hope is that this will provide more public information as the current programme finishes and the new R100 contracts come into being.

This new programme is expected to complete by 2021 and fill in connections to premises at a distance from the exchange, and typically on EO lines, by providing an FTTP connection.

The objective of the forum is also to allow community groups to share their experiences and thus expedite their projects.

A monthly report on the progress of broadband improvement round the area is provided to Killearn Community Council at their meetings and afterwards from the Killearn Broadband Group area of the Killearn Community Council website, should you want a more frequent update than the *Courier* can provide. Search online for Killearn Broadband Group.

DOUG ASHWORTH
CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



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Why not take a look at our Facebook page for updates on our latest projects

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It has occurred to me in writing articles for the *Courier* that I often refer to incidents and goings-on in the village which can seem like yesterday's news by the time you are reading them. Much of the time, the perception of crime can seem much worse than the reality.

With this in mind, I thought it would be interesting to give you an idea of what has been reported to Police Scotland in the Killearn area between April 2018 and February 2019.

The Killearn police beat covers quite a large area and includes Boquhan and as far along the Fintry Road as Ballikinrain, west up to Finnich Toll and south along the Stockiemuir Road almost as far as Queen's View. Dumgoyne and Glengoyne Distillery also fall into the Killearn area for policing purposes.

Eight thefts have been reported between April and February 2019. These include two shopliftings at the Co-op, one of which involved a crime gang who specialised in stealing champagne from several Co-ops during August last year. This group were caught and charged by Callander officers.

Two bicycles were stolen, one from outside the Killearn Village Hall – neither have been recovered. An unusual case involved the theft of the wooden cemetery gates from the Killearn Woodland Cemetery in October 2018.

Seven thefts by housebreaking were reported over the period. Three of these occurred at Oakwood Garden Centre during August. This was a major piece of work at the time – dozens of garden centres throughout the west of Scotland were being broken into. The culprit was eventually caught and much of the stolen property recovered. There will be a trial in the near future.

Two other housebreakings occurred at Killearn Mill business park in May last year – Velux windows were stolen and an office broken into. These crimes currently remain unsolved.

The remaining two crimes involved housebreakings at domestic properties where jewellery was stolen, and enquiries are ongoing.

Springtime sees a huge increase in sheep and lambs in the fields and, unfortunately, dogs chasing them. Last spring, Balfroon officers dealt with numerous incidents of sheep worrying – which is a crime – resulting in the death of three animals in the Killearn area. This is a perennial problem which I strongly suspect we will be dealing with again this year.

One case of vandalism was reported over the past year which involved windows being broken at the now vacant Killearn Hotel.

Five recoveries of controlled drugs were made by Balfroon officers in the Killearn area over



POLICE SCOTLAND

Keeping people safe

the past year. Drug recoveries are often made as a result of routine road checks being conducted by local officers; these incidents all involved possession of small amounts of controlled substances.

Two serious road accidents occurred, in July and January, both on the A81 in the Dumgoyne area. There have been no fatal road accidents in the Killearn area for several years now.

As I alluded to at the start of my article, from a policing perspective we have had a relatively calm start to 2019. Doubtless as the days get longer things will pick up.

As long as we – the police and the public – remain vigilant, I am confident we can keep crime down and the roads safe.

DAVID McNALLY

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Sustainable Living Fayre – Something for Everyone

Killlearn Community Futures Company is hosting a free, family-friendly advice event in the Village Hall on Saturday, 27 April that aims to showcase what we can do to make our homes and the village more sustainable. The event will include fun activities for the whole family and is being run in partnership with Home Energy Scotland.

Home Energy Scotland is the advice service funded by the Scottish Government to provide free, impartial advice on energy saving, keeping warm at home, renewable energy, greener travel and cutting water waste. Their mission is to help people and communities in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce energy bills and tackle climate change.

Alongside local participants, experts will be on hand with advice and information on a range of aspects of energy saving and sustainable living.

- Sustainable transport – check out and test drive the electric vehicles and electric bikes on show at the Village Hall; give us your thoughts on EV charging points in the village – how many, where to put them.
- Energy – benefit from practical tips to keep your home warm for less, information about funding available for new boilers, insulation and heating systems, and the latest on advances in technology and support available from Scottish Government that are making switching to renewables a viable option.
- Food – courtesy of Zero Waste Scotland, we'll have food waste reduction workshops running that are fun, interactive and packed full of handy tips and ideas to help you 'Love Food Hate Waste'.

- Recycling – Killlearn already has some of the best recycling rates in Stirlingshire; hear from Stirling Council on what we can do to improve further.
- Environment – learn about the local heritage trail, foot and cycle paths initiatives, and our efforts to keep the village in colour throughout the year; plus Killlearn Primary will show us how they are helping Killlearn move towards a sustainable future.
- Fun stuff – includes kids' activities, prize draws, competitions and giveaways.

Everyone who attends will be eligible for free energy and water saving packs with handy tools to help save and do your bit for the environment.

Get involved

We would welcome broad participation in this event from across the village, and invite you to get involved.

You may be a villager involved in sustainable activities or a business that provides a local service for renewable energy. Perhaps you own an EV and would be prepared to come along to share your experiences with others.

We are also interested in involving some of the younger members of our community who can perhaps showcase their project work from the school.

Save the date – Saturday, 27 April. For more information and to get involved, contact Adam Hollis (07421 763150; adamjhollis@gmail.com). Look out for event updates on Facebook and village notice boards.



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Nature Bats Last

There's nothing quite like a good sporting metaphor as we head into spring, so how about this: nature bats last. Despite the phrase being attributed to him, Robert Michael Pyle in his book *Wintergreen* admits he didn't coin it, although he wishes he had thought of it first! However, what he did do was help bring into focus the idea that nature is remarkably resilient.

Recently, the environmental news has been full of dire warnings. Insect Armageddon! Alien signal crayfish in Scotland's waterways! Bee colony collapse means mass starvation! Twelve years to avert climate catastrophe! It's all true, up to a point. But hyperbolic headlines don't make for nuanced decision making.

Biodiversity is the environmental watchword at the moment. But what is biodiversity? In very simple terms, it's a measure of the stability of an ecosystem. There's no value judgement involved. It isn't either good or bad, it just is. Stress the environment, and the numbers of plants and animals within it will change. Stress it enough, and the specialists among the creatures – butterflies that feed only on a single type of plant source, for example – will decline, while the generalists – the less picky animals and plants – will fill the space. This is something that usually takes place over a very long time and has the added bonus of a kind of evolutionary frenzy, as John Michael Greer describes it. This leads, again over a long period of time, to another stable, but different, ecosystem. Rinse, as they say, and repeat.

Few would seriously contest the point that we are in a time of environmental instability. On top of Earth's natural shifts, we are layering additional stress: fossil-fuel pollution, changes in agricultural practices and the use of pesticides are three broad examples. We are busily paving paradise and putting up parking lots (with apologies to Joni Mitchell), so it's no wonder that all manner of creatures are finding it hard to make a living.

Our response is often an attempt to encourage nature to



adapt to what we want. *Homo sapiens* aren't very long-lived – there's a tree in the playpark that's probably three times older than the oldest villager – so it's not surprising that we expect the landscape to be a static thing, timeless and unchanging. After all, our ancestors spent a considerable amount of time making it look the way it does. And it takes a considerable effort to maintain that look. With its rolling pastures, tidy hedges and salmon pools, that effort costs – in both cash

and biodiversity. While our urban landscapes, with their glass skyscrapers, canalised rivers and regimented green spaces, might seem to be in a constant state of flux, the maintenance is costly too. So it shouldn't be surprising that when invasive plants shrug off previously lethal doses of pesticides or bacteria threaten medical advances by developing immunity to available antibiotics, it's a shock. How could they adapt so fast? How dare they evolve! It just isn't cricket!

What we have lost sight of is that Mother Nature makes the rules, and she's playing her own game. She doesn't have any reason to be concerned about the specific well-being of bees or crayfish or you or me: neither they nor we are indispensable. Humans are a single species out of an untold number, and there's absolutely no reason to think that our end in several million years' time (barring accidents in the short term) won't be the same as every species that's become extinct. Only the details will differ.

Mother Nature may not view humans as indispensable in this particular game of life on Earth, but this doesn't mean we are justified in sledging the players in all the other teams to try to gain an advantage. Anyway, we may be batting at the moment, but she's fielding, waiting for her chance at the crease. Her willingness – so far – to adapt to our unsportsmanlike conduct may prove, in the long run, not to be to our advantage, and we forget that detail at our peril. Humans aren't the only team in the series, after all, and Mother Nature owns the pitch. NB

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As I sit and look back through the bookings for the Village Hall from the last few weeks, it's a great reminder of how well a such a community facility like the Village Hall reflects so many aspects of community life. There's tennis, bridge, badminton, yoga, Pilates, taekwondo, dancing and dancercise – not just for the over 50s, but for all ages. Then the Hall has been chosen as the venue for a baby shower, an MSP surgery, a KPS coffee morning, a friendship group, the sewing group, a christening party, a funeral tea... gatherings for all ages, for happy times and sad ones.

We'd like to say thank you for supporting the Hall. We're working hard to make the Hall work for you: we've painted, laid new flooring in the front entrance, completely re-varnished the main hall floor. And we always seem to be trying to get hold of BT to help us understand why the Wi-Fi isn't as good as it should be. Sound familiar?

If you haven't been into the Village Hall recently, then please come in and have a look around or search online for 'killearn village hall what's on' to view our regular group bookings/classes and feel free to come and try. We're open!

It's also been a time for a change of roles within the organising committee at the Hall (KVHOC). After many years at the helm, Brian Simmers has taken a step back from the convenor's chair – now focusing more on the financial aspects.

We're very grateful to still have Brian's support, but also want to say a huge thanks and recognise the contribution that he has made to the Village Hall over a long period of holding the reins. We sent our colleague and long-time friend of Brian to have a chat and to hear more about his time at the Hall.

FIONA RENNIE

Killearn Village Hall – 2008 to 2019

Brian Simmers has been a Killearn resident for some 52 years, and many will know him as the good-natured retired gentleman that he is. A former Scotland Rugby International stand-off and centre (he was capped seven times), he has also been very active in charitable work, chairing the Yorkhill Children's Foundation and working with other organisations supporting the well-being of young people. Along with his brother, he ran a chain of very successful Scottish hotels.

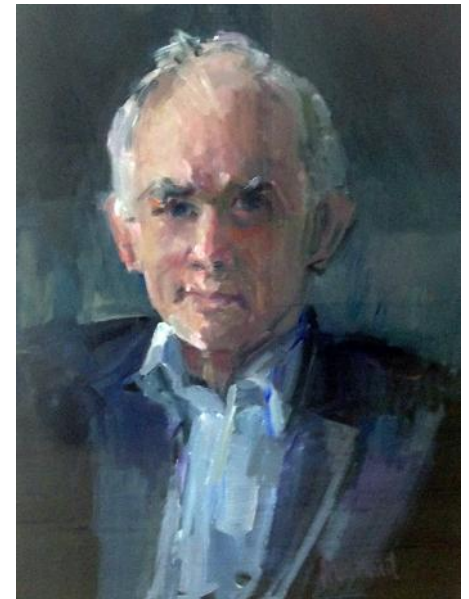
Over his years in the village, he has been involved in various committees including a spell on the Community Council and several years as a member of the board of KCFC. Indeed, it is fair to say that being involved in voluntary work, both at a local level and further afield, is in his blood.

Thus, it was in 2008, Killearn Community Futures Company realised that something needed to be done about the decaying Village Hall and, more importantly, developing it to provide much-needed facilities for the youth of Killearn. A proposal was put forward which was strongly supported by Stirling Council, who were then the owners of the building.

Obviously, such an enterprise needed someone skilled in running a business and who had, among other attributes, a lifelong interest in helping young people. Brian, who fitted these requirements to a 'T', was approached to take on the role of Project Manager, which, after some thought, he accepted and has succeeded in fulfilling right up to the present day.

The project involved a budget of some £1.7 million and with Brian as the driving force, it was completed on time and within budget (no mean feat!), and the new hall opened in August 2013.

The job of putting the new hall to work then began. A small Operations Committee, initially chaired by David Rodger and then by Brian took up this role. KVHOC set about setting up the new hire arrangements (which now needed a much more complex system), arranging the new requirement for maintenance of the entire building, managing the week-to-week running of the hall, and ensuring it was (and still is) financially viable. An article giving details of what this entailed will be included in a future edition of the *Courier*.



As Brian is now considering stepping back from the Committee, the village owes him a debt of gratitude for his dedication in seeing this project through. It has resulted in Killearn having a Village Hall which is owned by us all, is widely admired and is proving to be very successful.

A portrait of Brian, by artist Marion Drummond (*reproduced above*), was presented to mark his extraordinary achievement in the successful redevelopment of Killearn Village Hall. It hangs in the entrance foyer.

MICHAEL PELL

Comedy at Killearn Village Hall

Killearn Village Hall will be hosting three Comedy Evenings in May and June.

Scott Gibson (top right) returns with his comedy show on Saturday 18 May. His first visit in November 2018 went down a storm with the audience and we are delighted he has added Killearn Village Hall to his 2019 tour.

Jay Lafferty (centre) will be visiting for the first time on Sunday 2 June with her Edinburgh Fringe hit comedy show *Wheesht!* With a colourful history of never knowing when to shut up, Jay has gotten herself into more than a few tricky situations. After a lifetime of being told to pipe down, Jay never expected the trouble that would come from holding her tongue.

Then on Sunday 23 June we welcome award-winning Scottish writer Keir McAllister with his comedy play *The Bench*. It's a comedy about safe spaces and the people that fill them – *Waiting for Godot* meets *Still Game*. *The Bench* reunites the long-standing comedy partnership of Paul Sneddon (Vladimir McTavish) and Kier McAllister (below), from a script by McAllister and directed by award-winning comedian, Jojo Sutherland.



Tickets for all three evenings are available via Killearn Village Hall's Facebook page and at the door. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on all three evenings.

Wildlife film-makers Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope return to Killearn Village Hall with 'Orcas, Otters and Armadillos' on Sunday 31 March at 7.30pm. Full details can be found on page 5.

If these events are a success then the Village Hall Committee will endeavour to bring more visiting acts and theatre companies to perform in the village.

Wednesday 24 – Saturday 27 July

Join us from 24–27 July for film screenings, workshops and events for | all ages. Enjoy a ceilidh, a teddy bears picnic and a yurt cinema on the glebe. The Killearn Movie Hoolie programme will be out in late spring.

The festival is the brainchild of local person Anna Gower, and is run by volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved choosing short films, have ideas about how to decorate the halls or are available to volunteer during the festival, please get in touch.

A big thank you must go to Killearn Community Futures Company and Regional Screen Scotland for their support.



We are taking early bookings for the film-making workshop for young people between the ages of 13 and 18. Please contact the Movie Hoolie on anna@ideaslink.org for any enquiries or find us on Twitter [@MovieHoolie](https://twitter.com/MovieHoolie).

ANNA GOWER

There, But Not There



Remembrance Day last year coincided with the 100th anniversary of the armistice to end hostilities in World War I. The Archive Group wished to mark this occasion in some way, and Robert Hunter suggested we follow the ‘There but not there’ campaign which was initially started in a church at Penshurst, where 50 seated transparent outlines of soldiers were placed in the church pews to represent the fatalities in the parish from that conflict. The group decided to place some silhouettes adjacent to the War Memorial for the Remembrance Day Service.

We did not have the funds to purchase the commercially produced six-foot silhouettes available so, as necessity is the mother of invention, we decided to make our own. Working with plastic to make transparent figures was considered problematic, so we decided to use plywood. Plywood sheets large enough to fit two life-size figures were obtained by Joe McLaren, who then cut each in half for individual figures.

Our first problem was the lack of artistic skills within the group to draw the outlines. This was overcome by projecting images from a computer onto the boards with a digital projector. Some images were obtained from the internet, but two were photographs of local men who were casualties in the war taken from our archives. These were David Wilson, who is commemorated on the War Memorial, and Alexander Leopold Kerr, who is not, but is remembered with his brother on the family grave in the Old Cemetery. The images were traced around with a highlighter and then Jim Fallas cut them out with an electric saw. The resulting figures were reinforced

to make them rigid, attached to stakes, and painted with a light grey exterior wood paint. The colour was chosen after seeing the figures used to advertise FADS’s production of *Journey’s End*. These were a light grey, which was particularly effective in half light.

The figures were placed in the flower beds at each side of the War Memorial. The Group also placed bunting along the railings for Remembrance Day and purchased new flags and light-weight poles to be carried by village youth organisations. The Saltire and Union Jack were accompanied by the individual flags of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the last being formed as an independent organisation only towards the end of the war. The figures and other items are now in store for use in future years.

PETER SMITH

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE



Killlearn 10k: Did You Do It?

I'm never normally one to say 'I told you so' but, well, Killlearn, on this occasion, I did! In the Winter 2018 issue of the *Courier* we forewarned about the Killlearn 10k selling out and encouraged locals to get registered. Then in early January the inevitable happened – we sold out. What a fantastic endorsement of an event organised entirely by village volunteers with the support of our main sponsor for 2019, The Old Mill.



Photo courtesy of David McKay

Even if you didn't manage to sign up, fear not, there are plenty of ways to get involved on 1 June. As ever, we are recruiting volunteers to help set up on the day and to marshal the course, cheering runners along the way. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the committee at info@killlearn10k.com or marshal organiser, Jill French (07768 948126).

Remember, if 10k seems too ambitious, there's always the Killlearn Mile. This takes place before the 10k on the same day. It's an on-the-day registration in Killlearn Primary School, and the event is open to anyone. We look forward to seeing Killlearn out in force on Saturday, 1 June.

KERRI MCPHERSON

Mums on the Run



A Jog Scotland buggy group for new mums has been launched for Spring 2019 in Killlearn Park.

Mums on the Run Strathendrick is a weekly buggy fit session run by new Jog Scotland leader and personal trainer Shona Nicolson, herself a Killlearn mum of three. The group is for any mum in the Strathendrick area wishing to keep fit and have fun with others while caring for a baby or small child in a buggy, from their six-week postnatal check-up onwards. It meets on Tuesdays at 1.30pm in Killlearn park.

The group aims to gradually increase fitness over a 10-week period. To do this, a range of jogging games, walk/jog intervals, circuits and buggy games are planned. Most of this involves being in a set area in the park. Later in the block, there will be more continuous walk/jogging.

Leader Shona Nicolson said, 'Getting back to fitness after having a baby can be very challenging. We have mums with a range of fitness levels who join. This means all activities can be adapted to suit different abilities and everyone in the group works at the level they are comfortable. Pushing a heavy baby and buggy is a great work out as any mum will know! Plus there are step ups, squats and other stationary strength work to tone your muscles and strengthen your body for every day life as a mum.'

After a fun workout in the park, the group will often head on for a coffee together. Why not join a session for free and see Mums on the Run in action, then decide if it's right for you!

Send the group a message on Facebook @motrstrathendrick to book your place.



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 :

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Rugby Round-Up

As the *Courier* goes to press, the Six Nations is about to kick off. Scotland's national team has made good progress in recent years. By the time you read this, will supporters' dreams have been fulfilled or will they have been dashed? And when our next edition is published in the summer, the 2019 Rugby World Cup will be looming in Japan. With that – and both Scottish professional teams having reached the latter stages of the European Cup for the first time ever – there is plenty for the rugby fans to get excited about.

At local level, Strathendrick RFC's first season in Tennent's West Regional Division 1 has proved challenging. Although the Fintry side has enjoyed some good wins, there are a number of really strong sides pushing for promotion to the National Leagues in that division, so there have been some tough games. But the good news is that the Club has managed to re-establish its 2nd XV so that fringe players, novices, young players – and the more mature clubmen – can all enjoy a game.

Among the juniors, the Balfon–Endrick Midi teams did really well in the Barbarian Schools Conference in the autumn, again playing some traditionally strong sides. The Minis are going from strength to strength in terms of player participation and the number of coaches, but sadly the Club's incredible, long-serving Mini Convenor, Iain Somerville, has had to stand down after many years service. Thank you, Iain.

Iain founded the phenomenally successful annual Strathendrick Minis Charity Festival, the end-of-season jamboree attracting hundreds of young players and supporters from across the region. Thankfully this will continue in 2019 under the guidance of Steven McCooey. The tournament will be on Sunday, 28 April 2019 – the first of three important days for the Club, and diary dates for supporters.



Endrick stalwarts:
Killearn father and son Ewan and
Calum Mackay

On Friday, 3 May, the Club will be holding a Golf Day at Balfon Golf Club, open to anyone looking for a good day out – please contact Jock Steel (07974 817143) for details. On Saturday, 11 May, Strathendrick will be holding its largest ever Club Day – celebrating the end of season with the President's Game, entertainment for children, awards and a festival of music, real ale and street food. Please join us – and bring your friends! Search online for Strathendrick RFC for further information.

NH



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Silver Jubilee Year for Balfron Golf Society

The game of golf is not a new tradition in Balfron. There was a nine-hole course in the village until 1939, when the land was requisitioned for agricultural use during World War II. A couple of attempts to reform the Club in the 1940s were unsuccessful, but 1991 saw the formation of Balfron Golf Society by a small group of individuals, most of whom lived or had been born in the village. A constitution was written, trophies were rescued from the local bank vault, and the inaugural outing to Callander Golf Club was first arranged that summer.

Over the next three years and after a public consultation, funding was put in place, the land was purchased, and squads of volunteers cleared the grazing land with borrowed equipment and the advice of local experts. Greens and tees were marked out and prepared for play, bridges were built, the clubhouse (an unwanted sports pavilion) was restored and erected, and a tree-planting operation directed by the Forestry Commission was completed.

After much hard work the course was opened in grand style on Saturday, 4 July 1994. The next three years saw continuous improvements on the nine-hole course, principally upgrading greens and tees. When the opportunity arose in 1997 to acquire adjoining land, it enabled the Club to consider extending the course to 18 holes.

Each member agreed to a small levy, and a number of local and national funding sources –including Sports Scotland Lottery Fund, the Royal and Ancient, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and the Paul Charitable Trust – supported the new development.

A carefully planned programme for course development was implemented, and the new 18-hole Shian course of Balfron Golf Society opened for play on 30 June 2001. Joan Walker, a committee member since the early days, told the *Courier*, ‘It was a massive undertaking by the committee at the time. The wonderful course we play is a testament to their hard work and commitment when the Club was being established.’

The philosophy of the Club has always been ‘affordable golf for all’. The cost of membership is kept as low as possible (£320 last season), while investment in the course is kept high to provide a high-quality experience. Any surplus is invested in course improvements. The Club employs a professional head green-keeper who manages a permanent team of two. The Society also employs additional seasonal help over the summer months.

In its Silver Jubilee year, the Club is focusing on encouraging junior golf, with arrangements in place for both Balfron High School and the local primary school to use the course for school events and participate in coaching sessions provided through the Club. This year a seasonal ticket, which covers the school holidays, is available for young people (8–17 years).



The Club relies on visitors. Members are actively encouraged to bring friends to play the course. Balfron is encouraging new members to apply and currently there is no waiting list. Course rangers patrol, providing information on the course as well as ensuring the tuck shop is well stocked. Outwith ranger cover, an honesty box operates so visitors can just turn up to ‘pay and play’ (£20 midweek; £25 at weekends).

Interested? Please contact the Club via the website (www.balfrongolfsociety.org.uk), on Facebook ([balfrongolfsociety](https://www.facebook.com/balfrongolfsociety)) or Twitter ([@balfrongolf](https://twitter.com/balfrongolf)).

Killearn Football Club News

We finished off 2018 with our awards night at The Old Mill Inn. This event gives us the chance to thank the players, supporters and sponsors for their support over the year .

The honours for 2018 went to:

- ⚽ Players Player of the Year: David Cameron
- ⚽ Management Player of the Year: Ian Crawford
- ⚽ Young Player of the Year: Scott Cameron
- ⚽ Top Goal scorer: Allan More

It’s now time to get ready for 2019, and we are looking forward to building on our foundations. Our AGM will be held on 17 March, and we welcome anyone interested in the Club to come along to ensure we can support the team properly going forward. If you are interested in getting involved, either playing or supporting, contact Colin Banks (0750912256).

The Sports Pavilion is finished! We are looking to celebrate the completion of the changing room project by holding a Fun Football weekend on 11 and 12 May. This will include the return of our popular ‘Street Football’ event.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/killearnfootballclub/) and local noticeboards for more information over coming weeks.

THE KILLEARN F.C. COMMITTEE

Equestrian Vaulter Represents Great Britain

Katie Henderson enjoyed a hugely successful equestrian vaulting year, culminating in selection to represent Great Britain at the European Equestrian Vaulting Championships for Juniors in the Pas de Deux (pairs) class with her friend, Kerri Brylka. The girls went onto to clinch fourth place in a highly contested competition that saw Germany take the top two spots. Having only started working on their Pas De Deux, the girls were delighted with their position.

Katie was also selected as travelling reserve for the Individual Female class. As this is her first year eligible to compete in this class, Katie (14) is competing against vaulters who might be four years her senior. Katie and Kerri were also selected to perform a daily display at the 70th Horse of Year Show, showcasing equestrian vaulting along with the world-renowned Joanne and Hannah Eccles and other members of Team GBR, both past and present. The pair have since become British

and Scottish Champions and took first (Kerri) and second (Katie) places in the Individual competitions at the British Championships – only 0.04 between their final scores.

Not to be outdone, Katie's younger sister, Sally, has also excelled this year. Competing as an individual vaulter at international competitions for the first time, Sally (12) obtained two qualification scores which allow her to progress directly to Junior 2 star in 2020. She competed at her first Child 2 star competition in Hungary in August and came an impressive third. She has also become Scottish Champion for Child 2 star and came second at the British Championships.

Both girls also competed in Team events as part of SEVT, travelling to France, Slovakia and England coming third, fourth and first, respectively.

The new season starts in April, so both the girls are focused on producing new routines as well as consolidating the compulsory moves



required for the first round of each competition.

Competition means travel to France, Switzerland and England as they work towards selection to represent Great Britain at the World Equestrian Vaulting Championships for Juniors, which will be held in the Netherlands in July 2019.

Killearn Tennis Club News

As we head gratefully into spring, perhaps your thoughts are turning to a spot of healthy exercise to shake off the sluggishness of winter. If so, we can highly recommend tennis.

New members, of all ages and abilities, are always welcome at Killearn Tennis Club, with social tennis evenings on Wednesdays, 7pm–10pm, to introduce newbies to the many joys of the game. Details are available on the club website. You'll find a friendly welcome if you'd like to come and try.

If you're slightly more competitively inclined, ladies' team tennis starts in April. Anyone interested in taking part can contact the Club, or email our coach, Hannah Pickford (hptennis@hotmail.com).

For the youngsters, Hannah will be running an Easter coaching camp in a week to be confirmed. The Club will also run a nine-week block of junior coaching starting from Friday, 26 April and finishing on 24 June. The coaching will be advertised nearer the time via posters, email and social media, so keep your eyes peeled.

Look out, too, for posters for our first Open Day of the season, another excellent opportunity to come and get to know us, and perhaps join up. The date is yet to be confirmed, but we'll make sure it's well advertised.



If you're already a member, we'd like to offer a gentle reminder to please make sure your subscriptions are paid by 30 April.

Our courts do look pretty in the snow, but it's always nice to see the back of the wintry weather and look forward to a new season.

We go into this one with our facilities in particularly good order, thanks to our brand new court surfaces and nets, and the clearing away of the worst of the wilderness which had sprung up at the side of Court 3. A long-forgotten path has re-emerged, and there's now a lovely view of Dumgoyne to enjoy if you've got one of those playing partners who take ages between points.

If you'd like to try tennis, or find out more about our Club, visit www.killearntennisclub.org.uk or search for us on Facebook.

Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2018/19 season has been fairly routine this year.

The Club Autumn League was won easily by Norman Robertson's team of Fiona Glass, Richard Kingslake and Luisella Mosley. The other six teams had a battle for second place, which was won on the last game by Rosemary Miller's team.

The trophy which instigated the fiercest competition, that for the Ladies v Gents match, was retaken by the men this year.

The Ladies Section played a triple round robin Peat Trophy league which was easily won by Isabel Robertson's team of Rita Harris, Sally Macfarlane and Gail Pain. Pat Rodger defended the Ladies Christmas Bonspiel trophy, winning with her team of Sally Macfarlane, Luisella Mosley and Norma Thornton. The lunch at The Winnock Hotel which followed was much enjoyed by all members.

Rita Harris and Elspeth Murdoch just pipped Anne Lang and Maureen Royston in the Ladies Section Pairs competition to win the Helen Loudon Quaich.

Although the Club has had no significant results in external competitions, there have been a couple of individual successes. Fiona Glass has defended her Stirling Area Ladies Pairs title. Her partner this year was our own Jane McLaren. See photo above right. Fiona has also qualified from the Stirling play-offs for the nationwide Henderson Bishop finals at Stranraer. The other members of the team were Judy MacKenzie and Di Christie from West Stirlingshire Ladies and Kirsty Pender, who is the daughter of former Strathendrick members, Arthur and Zena Pollock. Our own Sally Macfarlane also played in one of the matches.

On the social side, the annual meander round the village after New Year was the usual enjoyable event, with good weather for once.

You can find the various team members, scores, etc., and our programme of events on our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.



Fiona (right) and Jane (centre) being presented with the trophy by Anna Burnside, the Area President
© Scottish Curling Stirling Ladies Branch



Meanders at the Pond
©Judy McGeachie

We are always looking for new members, so if you are looking for an activity to keep you busy during the winter months and have always fancied curling, please contact Di Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or look at our website.

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Lorna Pickford launched the studio in September 2018 and she is currently working with and having success with clients with osteoarthritis, ms, lupus, varying injuries and athletes.

She has worked in dance education for over 24 years as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. She worked as Head of Education for Scottish Ballet for 10 years and also run her own successful dance education company. She first came across GYROTONIC® through Scottish Ballet and has been doing it for 15 years! Training to become an instructor seemed a natural transition.

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Lorna Ash, Strathblane.

"As someone with Multiple Sclerosis, I find it helps enormously with my walking, getting up stairs and feeling more flexible! I am better mentally too!" *Nicky Law, Killearn.*

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Joan Margaret Rubython 1930 – 2018

Joan Rubython was born in Cork, where she lived with her parents and brother until her late teens when she went to work as a secretary in a large firm in Dublin. Here she enjoyed the social life of the city and met Allan, the man who would become her husband. It was to be a happy partnership, each having a personality which contrasted with but also complemented the other. Both were very sociable and greatly enjoyed the company of family members and friends. When Allan's work required him to relocate to Scotland they settled in Killearn and here their children, Jill and Ian, grew up. The family made strong and lasting friendships with other local residents and played an active role in the community. Joan played tennis, table tennis and bowling; she went to evening classes in a variety of subjects and, after attending Spanish classes, even gained an O Level in that subject.

As her children grew older, Joan returned to work, first at Killearn

Hospital and then at the Southern General, and Glasgow University Library and then was secretary to the professors of neuropathology, enjoying being a part of the team.

Essentially a gregarious person, Joan liked to get out of the house and be with other people. She found it irksome if the weather was bad and would stubbornly test the elements to battle forth regardless of the conditions.

She and Allan took great pride in their family and were always on hand to provide advice and support. Being grandparents was a great thrill for them and they were very proud of the achievements of their two grandchildren, Lisa and Cameron.

When Allan's health began to fail, Joan provided constant help and support to him; his death some 15 years ago came as a great blow and this at a time when her daughter and son-in-law, Martin, were on the point of leaving for a new life in New Zealand. Despite her personal



feelings, Joan supported them in their endeavours and over the years visited them in New Zealand 13 times, making some memorable trips with them.

She was a generous person and was a dependable volunteer in the community, driving for Meals on Wheels and the Thursday Club and being the designated driver for friends, taking them to various events and this she continued doing into the last year of her life. Always lively, she remained active, independent and energetic until the end. She will be much missed in the locality and, most particularly, by her family. BP



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Stephen Coutts 1956 – 2018



Stephen Coutts will have been known by sight to several and recognised by many as a quiet and amiable man who walked with his wife and enjoyed meeting dog walkers, often feeding their dogs with treats.

He lived a life that was filled with his personal passions to the extent that he crammed two careers into the 24 hours of his day. In the long evenings, extending into the wee small hours, he was a musician recognised throughout the jazz world as a phenomenal talent, known to many of the most famous names in the business. In the day, for 36 years, he was an instrumental instructor in Glasgow schools, where he was a dedicated teacher, nurturing his pupils' talents and inspiring them with his love for his chosen instrument, the guitar.

There was always music in the family home; recorded music of all types, with jazz and swing predominating, was played on the radiogram. His father played the trumpet in various bands. At an early age, Stephen could pick out tunes, and at five or six years old he started to play the ukulele.

Aged eight, at Ralston Primary School, he began to study classical violin, progressed well and, when he went on to Paisley Grammar School, he led the school orchestra for a number of years.

As he grew older, Stephen's interest turned more to jazz and he became established as a jazz violinist. But parallel to this, he acquired first an acoustic and then an electric guitar. Entirely self-taught, he joined various groups and,

as he became known, he was in demand to play gigs all over the country, along the way meeting and playing with established players.

He could play the mandolin as well and for some years performed Italian folk music at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He played with the jazz group Swing 2018 – the name of the group changed with the year – joining them in 2002 and making a number of recordings, playing both jazz violin and jazz guitar.

Eventually, though, the guitar became his main instrument and his playing career brought him into close contact with many notable jazz musicians with whom he played and by whom he was highly rated. When in his teens, he met Stephane Grappelli, the famous jazz violinist, and a friendship developed, with Grappelli coming to the family home for a meal. This friendship continued until Grappelli's death in 1997.

Stephen met Ann Beaty in 1973 when she was at Glasgow School of Art and he was playing in a nearby bar. She became a regular 'follower' of his music and over the years the attraction between them grew. They started their teaching careers in 1979, began their life together in Kelvindale and moved to Killearn in 1996.

In addition to his music, Stephen loved cars, travel, dogs and model-making – several rooms in their house were filled with exquisite precision-made models of cars, some of them his own making.

Stephen was a gentle and quietly spoken man. His unassuming and caring personality in many ways hid the scale of his abilities and achievements. His musicianship was profound. Music poured out of him. He knew all the tunes, could improvise at will, was an unselfish accompanist and was valued both as a member of a group and as a soloist.

He had a tremendous dexterity combined with an innate sensitivity. He shied away from the limelight, never boasted of the famous names with whom he had worked, never sought fame and yet his talents were such that he might well have found fame on a bigger stage and in a wider world.

Last autumn, following a devastating illness, he died, far too early, aged almost 62. A celebration of his life was attended by very many friends who gathered at Cardross Crematorium and then at the Village Hall for a day of the sharing of memories and the pleasure of listening to live performances and to recordings of Stephen playing the music that gave him and all who heard it so much pleasure.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, in the village, in the worlds of music and education, but most particularly by his wife, Ann, and his brother, David.

BP

Valerie Trotter 1926 – 2018



Valerie Trotter, who had close connections with Killearn where she lived and farmed for a number of years, died at the end of 2018. She had many friends here and throughout the world, and will be remembered as a warm and energetic personality.

Valerie was born in London and spent her childhood and school days in Kent. The girls' school which she attended was evacuated and also took in some children from the Kindertransport, with one of whom Val developed a life-long friendship.

Her father died when she was 18, and on leaving school she went to work in the telegraph section of the Bank of England. In her early 20s she met and married Robert Trotter, an electrical engineer. They had two children, Jacqueline and Jonathan, and, when the children were young, moved to Sevenoaks in Kent where the family settled happily.

John (Ian) Mailer 1927 – 2019

John or, as he was known to many, Ian, Mailer was born at Castle Farm, Doune, to John and Davina Mailer. With his younger brother, Bill, he grew up on the farm and attended Doune Primary School and Callander High School. Farming was in his blood and he left school at the age of 14 to help his father on the farm.

In 1958, he married Marion, whom he had met at a Young Farmers Dance in Doune Hall. Their daughter, Margaret, was born in 1959 and their son, John, two years later.

They continued to live at Castle Farm until 1965, when they moved to Westerton Farm, Killearn, where Ian farmed for 30 years. It was a mixed farm where he also grew soft fruit and potatoes, and Marion sold the produce in their farm shop.

In his spare time, Ian enjoyed fishing, spending many hours on the banks of the Endrick, and was a keen bowler. As a member of Fintry Bowling Club, he competed in matches around the area.

In 1967, in search of a different lifestyle, Robert took a post in Anglesey and the family moved to a small holding in North Wales. Valerie, prompted by her love of animals and the outdoors, went to college and gained a diploma in agriculture. She began a new career, keeping hens, geese and turkeys, and progressed to buying in young calves which she fattened and sold for beef. Then she developed a passion for Welsh Black cattle and started a herd of pure-bred animals with which she won many awards.

After some happy years in Wales, a further change of job for Robert brought the family (including the Welsh Blacks) to Scotland where they bought Carston Farm. This gave Valerie more land on which to develop her farming activities. She became an active member of the National Farmers' Union and of the Drymen Show, where she ran the hospitality tent.

Tragedy struck when Robert died suddenly while they were on holiday in France. His death was a massive blow to Valerie but, with the support of her children, she gathered her strength and returned to Carston, immersing herself in her farming activities which she regarded as a means of helping her to recover from her sudden bereavement.

When she decided to retire, Valerie moved first to Kilmarnock Cottage and then to Drymen. At each new home she created a beautiful garden and continued to pursue her love of the outdoors as much as possible. She also had a great love of music and was able to nurture this by visits to the opera and music holidays. She was a lady of supreme capability, immense passion and energy, and a great sense of fun, with friendships that stretched across the world. Those who met her would never forget her. She was a loving and inspirational wife and mother, and a staunch friend to many.

BP

He retired in 1995 and, once free from the daily demands of the farm, he and Marion enjoyed socialising with friends and holidays spent cruising.

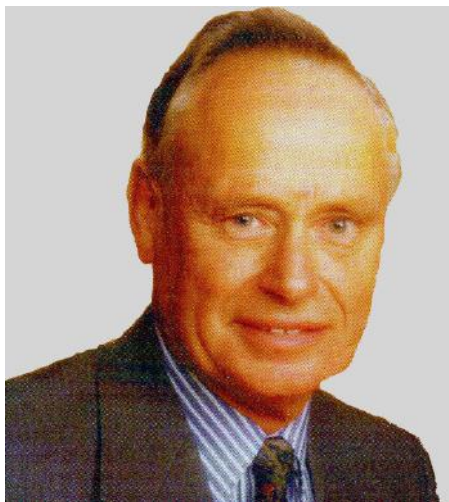
The death of their son, John, in 2006, after a long illness, was a devastating blow for them both, but Ian dealt with this loss in his characteristically quiet and dignified manner.

He and Marion celebrated their diamond wedding last summer. He is greatly missed by those who knew him and most of all by his family.



BP

Gaylor Dron 1936 – 2018



Gaylor Dron was born to Robert and Florence Dron, and early in his life came with his parents to live in Killearn. He began his education at Killearn Primary School and then at the age of seven, went as a boarder to Dollar Academy. His father died when he was only 11.

On leaving school, he trained as a chartered accountant and then seized an opportunity to go abroad for 18 months. This gave him an opportunity to work in Canada and to travel there and in the United States. Sometime

after his return, in 1963 he joined Johnson and Paton in Glasgow, in time becoming Company Secretary and Director. He remained with the company, which went through several changes of ownership, until his retirement in 1996.

Gaylor met Valerie at a skating party on Loch Lomond in the year the loch froze. They were married in 1963 and set up home in Bearsden. Here, their daughter, Louise, and their son, Stuart, were born and spent their early years. In 1973, following the death of Gaylor's mother, they moved to Killearn, to the house which had been Gaylor's family home.

In his leisure time Gaylor was a keen golfer, playing regularly, with a handicap in single figures; he also enjoyed gardening and was a member of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow. Retirement gave him the opportunity to travel. A regular sun-worshipper, he and Valerie enjoyed many overseas holidays in distant parts. He gave up golf when his regular partner could no longer

play, and thereafter he could be seen walking energetically around his daily circuit of the village.

He was an active member of Probus and took on the duties of hall convenor, ensuring the room was prepared for meetings and coffee was available.

As the years progressed he became less inclined to outdoor activities and was happy sitting at home, reading *The Herald*, doing the crossword and pottering in the garden.

He was a man of high principles, straightforward, honest and unshakeable in his resolve and was much respected for these qualities. However, his occasional rants against organisations and persons political were legendary. As a host he was welcoming and generous to all who visited and renowned for the size of his drams.

Gaylor was not outwardly a demonstrative man, but beneath his sometimes reserved exterior, he was immensely proud of and devoted to all his family by whom he will be sadly missed. BP

Margaret Stirling Harris 1929 – 2018



Margaret Harris was born in Bridge of Allan and educated at Stirling High School. After leaving school, she went on to Atholl Crescent College in Edinburgh to study domestic science, and on finishing her studies gained a job at St. Andrews University. There she met the man who was to be the love of her life, John Harris, who was then a student of chemistry.

The couple married in 1953 and moved to the Manchester area where John was working for ICI, and where their two sons, Michael and Charles, were born. In 1962, John's change of employment caused the family to move to a village near Harrogate where they settled into village life. Margaret sang with a local choir and became active in the WI.

In 1972, another change of job for John necessitated a move to Scotland, and the family settled happily in Killearn. Here Margaret quickly became involved in the life and activities of the village, singing in the church choir, being a member of the Guild, the Monday Club, the Drymen Luncheon Club, the Art Club and playing golf at Strathendrick Golf Club. She was a highly competent lady in all she did. She was a devoted wife and mother, a proud

grandmother to Jenny, a homemaker par excellence, a talented singer and artist, and a skilled flower arranger.

John's sudden death in 1985 came as a great shock to the family and left Margaret bereft, but she met the challenges of life without him with her customary dignity and fortitude, aided greatly by the support of her sons, friends and neighbours, and she gradually resumed her own interests and social life. As the years passed and her strength declined, she was able to remain in her own home thanks to excellent support locally, until nearly the end of her life.

Her stately deportment and impeccable style, together with her sense of humour which was never far from the surface, will remain in the memory of her many friends. Her passing is much mourned by her family. BP

Hugh Wylie McArthur 1925 – 2018

Hugh Wylie McArthur was born in Crieff, the middle child of the family of Hugh and Catherine McArthur; his brother, Frank, was born in 1924 and his sister, Catherine (Rena), in 1927. He attended St Columba's Episcopal School in Crieff and then won a bursary as a day pupil at Morrison's Academy. In 1939, the family moved to Garscube Estate and Hugh then attended Bearsden Academy. His father, a market gardener, had a change of job which brought the family to Killearn; Hugh then completed his schooling at Balfour High School. On leaving school he went to the West of Scotland Agricultural College – at that time part of the college was in Blythswood Square, Glasgow – and also attended Auchincruive in Ayr.

He worked first at Laighparks farm, then moved to Ibert farm and then to Campsie Dene House, in Blanehead, where he worked in the market garden. In 1954 he followed up a newspaper advert and as a result of this gained a post with Crockett the Ironmonger, as a travelling salesman of farm tools. He fitted out a caravan with his stock and became a popular figure in the farming community, visiting around 350 farms in West Stirlingshire and Dunbartonshire, supplying farming equipment and building up close and enduring friendships along the way. His long association with the farming community was marked by the Buchlyvie and District Ploughing Association making him an Honorary Vice-President.

Although successful in this work, Hugh had always had a desire to be a teacher. He returned to learning at evening classes, passed his Highers and went on to Jordanhill, where he gained his Diploma of Primary Education. He was appointed to Sighthill Primary School and here spent the happiest years of his working life as a successful and much loved teacher. Even when long past retirement age, he returned to Sighthill every Wednesday as a valued

voluntary classroom helper.

Earlier in life, Hugh met Jessie Cameron in Killearn and they were married in 1949; their daughter, Mary, was born in 1951. The family made their home at Letturburn, later moving to Wellgreen and then to Boquhan.

Hugh was an indefatigable member of the community and made a major contribution to the life of the village. As a younger man he played for the Killearn Football Club and continued to support the team for many years after his playing days were past, becoming Honorary Chairman.

He was a faithful attender at Killearn Kirk and an Elder for well over 50 years. He was also Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was a member of the Old Folks' Committee and for many years played a leading role in this organisation, fundraising and organising a calendar of social events and outings for the senior members of the village. He was an active supporter of many village organisations, and until recently regularly attended KCC and KCFC meetings, delivered the *Courier*, collected for Christian Aid and seemed to embody the history and spirit of Killearn. He was a deltiologist – a collector of postcards – specialising in those depicting the locality. These, together with his long memories of past days, enabled him to make a valuable contribution to many occasions when Killearn's history was celebrated.

Hugh, a gentle and genial man, was greatly respected by all who knew him. High principled and unwavering in his loyalty, he gave his utmost to every organisation and project with which he was associated. His marriage of 69 years was one of devotion to Jessie; with his daughter, Mary, there was the closest bond of affection; he was also much loved by his wider family. He will be sadly missed in the community by all who knew him, valued him and will hold him in their memory.

MMCA/BP

Jamie William Hutton Brown Lindsay 1977 – 2018



In October, all who knew the Brown family were shocked to hear of the death of Jamie, younger son of Charles and Isobel, in a road traffic accident in England.

Jamie was educated at Killearn Primary School and Kelvinside Academy, and later studied and graduated in construction engineering. He was passionately interested in all things mechanical, enjoyed problem solving and revelled in being out on construction sites. Early in his career he realised his ambition to set up and run his first company. His abilities, both practical and intellectual, together with his personal skills, ensured his continuing success.

He enjoyed a close and affectionate relationship with his family and, from childhood, developed a circle of friends to whom he remained loyal.

His personal life was enriched by meeting Mike Lindsay, the man who, in 2016, would become his husband and with whom, over a number of years, he enjoyed a devoted partnership.

Jamie's sudden death leaves a void in the lives of those closest to the couple and a sense of loss in all who knew him.

BP

Reverend David P. Munro 1929 – 2019

David Munro was born in Paisley, a child of the family of Hector and Joan Munro, his father being the superintendent of Quarrier's Homes in Bridge of Weir. He was educated at Paisley Grammar School and Glasgow University and having, from his earliest years, the ambition to become a minister of the church, he followed his graduation with a further year of study at Union Theological Seminary in New York, from where he graduated with a Master's degree in theology.



David was ordained in 1953 and, soon after this and his marriage to Jessie Scott McPherson, was appointed to Aberluthnott in Kincardineshire, from where he later moved to Castlehill in Ayr, and then to Bearsden North in 1967. Throughout his ministry he made a valuable contribution to the Church of Scotland by his membership of numerous committees where his wisdom was much appreciated, and also to the parishes he served who benefited from his vision, dedication and his pastoral care. The Rev. Fergus Buchanan, who conducted the thanksgiving service for David's life, spoke of him as 'buzzing with the joy and privilege of serving God as a Minister of Word and Sacrament'. In this role he was greatly aided by the loving support of Jessie, whom he once described as being 'the perfect minister's wife'.

It was after his retirement from full-time ministry in 1996 that David and Jessie moved to Killearn where they settled happily. Although nominally retired, David continued to be closely associated with the Church of Scotland, very frequently engaged in serving other parishes as well as our own during vacancies or doing pulpit supply around the wider locality. In Killearn,

whether acting as a temporary minister or as a member of the congregation and the community, David won the respect and affection of so many people for his interest in and support of church and village affairs and for his quietly voiced comments and his understanding.

In and around the family home, David was a practical man, happy to help, capable of doing repairs, keen on gardening, especially growing vegetables, and able to cook. These attributes enabled him, after Jessie's death, to retain his valued independence. He was particularly enthusiastic about making soup and the gift made to him by Killearn Kirk of a soup-making machine, in appreciation of all the support he had given the church over numbers of years, was an especially apt choice.

The Munro family life was a happy one. David and Jessie had three daughters of whom they were immensely proud and supportive, always encouraging them in their studies, delighted by their achievements and ready to provide practical assistance when helpful. As the family grew, David was a devoted grandfather and great grandfather, maintaining a close connection with all the generations and passing on the advice he had given to his daughters: to work hard and follow their chosen way in the world.

A Thanksgiving Service was held on 8 February and saw the church filled to capacity, with many coming from far afield and from his former parishes to support his family and to remember with affection David and the example he left of a good life well lived.

THE MUNRO FAMILY; REV. FERGUS BUCHANAN; BP

Bridge by Zorro Solution to the problem on page 18

South as Declarer can count nine straightforward tricks, so is looking for a tenth. The first plan was to try for a heart ruff on the table. It is good technique to play a low heart in both hands, keeping the Ace in dummy in case things go wrong. East, on winning the heart trick, scotches South's first plan immediately by playing Ace and another spade.

South re-plans and leads diamonds, again playing low in both hands. If East simply plays a club back, South can ruff, draw the last trump and establish a long diamond, as ♥A is still on the table as an entry. East reading this line of play instead plays a heart to remove the entry.

Declarer now has to bring a third plan into force. A club is ruffed in hand and then the remaining trumps are run to squeeze East in the red suits and achieve the tenth trick.

(With acknowledgement to Alan Hiron for his selection of hand and his notes.)

Z

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The Otter Side of the Tracks

By the time you read this I'll be long back from a five-day trip to Spain in early February. My quarry? Not birds, butterflies or bats this time. Instead, I'm looking for the rarest 'big cat' in the world – the stunning Iberian lynx. Seeing this highly-endangered feline involves local knowledge, staking out hotspots and searching for lynx tracks and signs. There's every chance I won't see one at all. But at least there is a supporting cast of more visible wildlife if the cat doesn't come out of the bag.

Back home in Killearn, while we don't have lynxes to worry about, we do have a variety of exciting mammal species living in and around the area. However, many of them are extremely difficult to see. There are fewer of them, they are often solitary and secretive – being very wary of humans who might persecute them – and they are mainly nocturnal. Unfortunately these days it is often roadkill that alerts us to the presence of a certain species in the area.

A typical example is the otter. These furry fish-eating marvels have enjoyed a lot of television time in recent years and are one of the country's favourite animals. But, in contrast to their coastal cousins, the 'inland' otters inhabiting fresh water come out far less during daylight hours and are much harder to see.

With patience and luck, especially just before dusk, otters can be watched fishing and frolicking in the rivers and streams around Killearn. More often than not, however, their tracks and signs are what give them away.



On riverside mud, look for distinctive and diagnostic footprints with five toes. While the nature of footprints is such that they are not always as clear as those pictured (often only four toes are visible), leading to possible confusion with other mammal tracks, a suggestion of webbing on the print is also a helpful sign. Other clues that otters are nearby include their droppings (spraints) which contain fish bones and scales and smell very strongly of, you guessed it, fish.

So be on the look out during your next riverside walk for tracks, signs and, if you're very lucky, the animal that made them.

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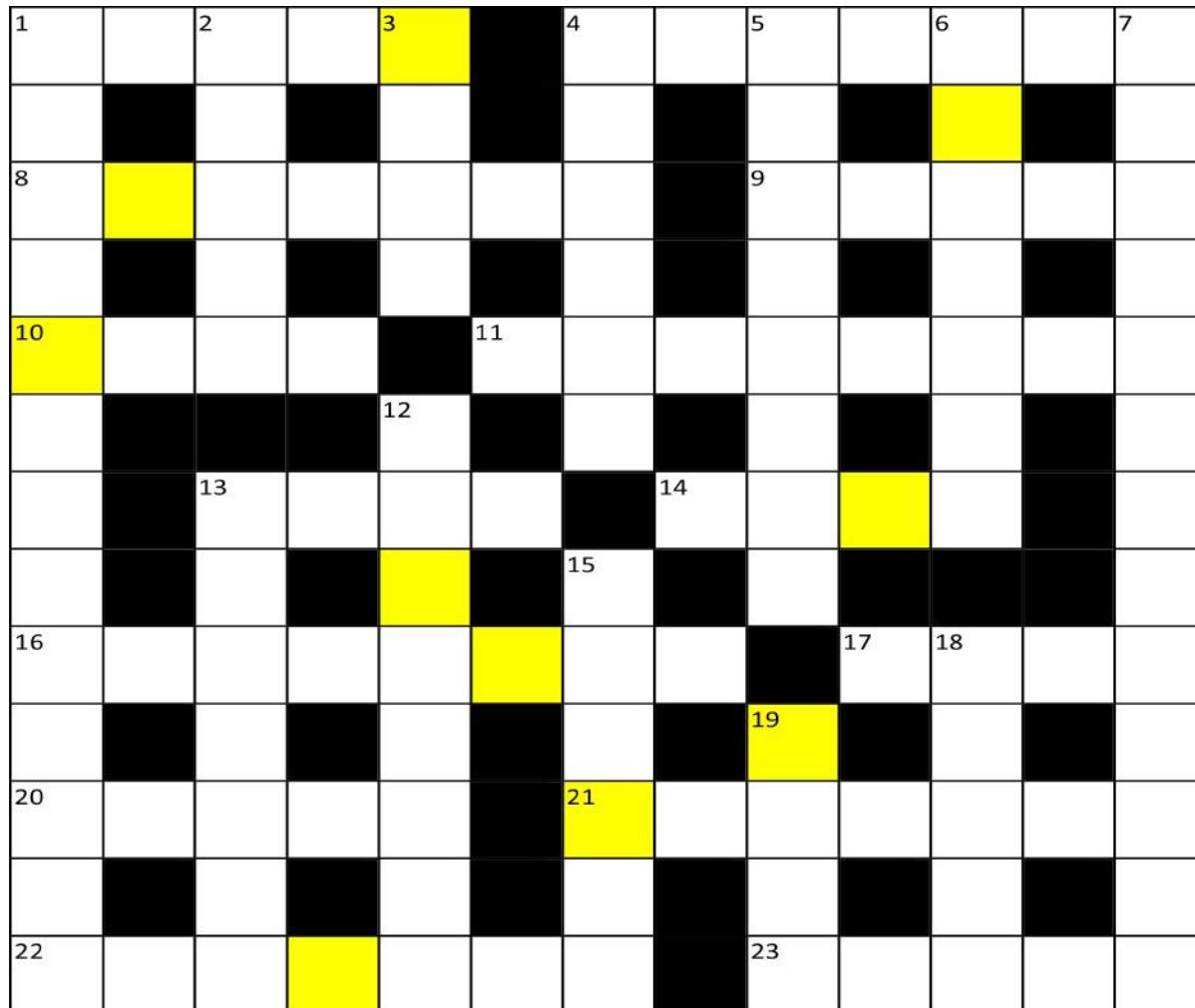
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PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD set by Peewit

Our prize for the 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 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 generously providing the prizes for our competitions.

Three solutions are unclued. The answers are to be found in the titles of three articles in this edition.



ACROSS

- 1 A word of welcome from Hades with love (5)
- 4 Keeps going with koalas above (5,2)
- 8 God plays instrument without end for a dish (7)
- 9 National rebels before a TV Quiz (5)
- 10 Lofty start to everything (4)
- 11 I age and moan with self-love (8)
- 13 Mollusc beheaded by pointed fixer (4)
- 14 Sounds as if the loaf propagated (4)
- 16 Tempers start turning nasty on-line (8)
- 17 Hen without family is smart (4)
- 20 A Roman has fragrance within (5)
- 21 *See 4 down*
- 22 Silence for authority (7)
- 23 Regal chick has love for drug on return (5)

DOWN

- 1 — (8,5)
- 2 Purple velvet inside may be laid flat (5)
- 3 Instrument starts outside broadcast on Eurovision (4)
- 4, 21 — (6,2,5)
- 5 I remove a mess for ski resort (8)
- 6 Stream begins to be criticised when crossed (7)
- 7 *See 12*
- 12, 7 — (8,7,6)
- 13 Nice zoo found around geological era (7)
- 15 Cannot? Broadcast murderer after UN can! (6)
- 18 Rugged author (5)
- 19 Emperor gets last letter in vehicle (4)

The letters in the yellow squares make up an anagram of yet another title (6,4). Solve the crossword and find the anagram. The name of the title is the solution; email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send to the *Courier* (see right).

Winner of our last crossword: Sara Rawlings, Boquhan

Solution to the last crossword: Across: 1 Christmas Day 9 eyrie 10 Rosslyn 11 yule 12 celibate 14 audios 15 Herald 18 depicted 20 veto 22 neutral 23 troll 24 experimenter Down 2 hurtled 3 Ides 4 Turkey 5 assailed 6 Delia 7 Yankee Doodle 8 New Year Dance 13 Sorcerer 16 awesome 17 Bedlam 19 Plump 21 Eton. Anagram: Cracker.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORD SEARCH

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

You should find the names of 10 **zoo animals** in the word search grid. They can be forward or backwards – across, up or diagonal.

Five of the animals are: **elephant, gorilla, kangaroo, penguin, tiger**. See if you can find these and also find the other five.

When you have discovered the missing five, write them down and post or email your answer to the *Courier* (see below) for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 or under, so please include your age.

The last winner of the £10 voucher was Lachlan Fleming, Killearn.

We had very few entries: if you do the puzzle, please send in your answer. It's easy – email or post in the Co-op or Hall postbox!

We would encourage everyone who tries our competitions to send an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has an equal chance. Email or write the answer on a piece of paper with your name, address and a contact phone number. You can place your solution(s) in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to competition@kfc.co.uk. Children may also place their entry in the box in the school. Entries must be received by **31 March**.

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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 17 August 2019.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 28 June. Contact:
 Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 28 June. Please send them to:

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